



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Dogs March Against Leash Law at Noe Courts Park

By Mark Robinson

Protest marches, petition drives, police intervention—it all happened in the dog wars of Noe Valley this summer.

The tussle centers on Noe Courts, an oasis of green at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets. Back in May, city officials banished dogs from the one-acre park. Then in June, they relented and allowed canines to return, but only so long as they stayed on leash.

Now Recreation and Park chief Joel Robinson says he'll monitor the park carefully to make sure dog owners comply with the rules. If the dogs get out of hand, he may propose a total ban this fall.

Neighborhood parents prompted the original ban when they complained that off-leash dogs were frightening their children, interfering with play, and soiling the grass.

"We wanted to see if the dog owners could be responsible before we went to the extreme measure of banning the dogs altogether," Robinson told the *Voice*. He acknowledged that a complete ban would require action by the city's Recreation and Park Commission.

Dog owners won't take that lying down. They've gathered more than 900 signatures on a petition asking for the right to let their dogs run off leash at Noe Courts before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. They've also promised to clean up after their pets and to keep them under voice control, out of the children's play area, and away from the tennis and basketball courts.

To push their demands, they've organized the Noe Courts Coalition, launched a newsletter ("The Scoop"), and even created a telephone information line.

And on Aug. 16 they held a peaceful demonstration dubbed the Mutt March. About 60 people and almost as many dogs paraded down 24th Street, handing



The fur was flying around 24th Street Aug. 16, as 60 dog owners and their pets held a Mutt March to protest a new leash-only policy at Noe Courts Park.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

out fliers to the crowds lolling in the Saturday-morning sunshine.

"I want him to be able to run and play. It's such a part of my life," said Carolyn Luetkes as she marched with Sam, her chocolate labrador retriever. "It's good for him, and it's good for the community, because all these neighbors have gotten to know each other through this park."

Luetkes said the new Noe Courts restrictions had not been as hard on Sam—who gets to run off leash while in doggy day care five days a week—as they had been on other dogs and owners. Many have begun sniffing out new places for off-leash frolicking, which has only put more pressure on the city's already dog-crowded parks.

More off-leash dogs are showing up—illegally—at sections of Dolores Park and Douglass Park, and in the play yards of Noe Valley schools like Alvarado and James Lick, said community police officer Lois Perillo.

A few owners are still allowing their dogs off leash at Noe Courts, prompting police to issue a slew of warnings and at least one \$23 citation, Officer Perillo said.

Nevertheless, the dog lovers hope to convince the city's Board of Supervisors

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Pacific Bell Eyes Church Steeple As Antenna Site

By Denise Minor

The Noe Valley Ministry's landmark steeple may soon house more than just air and the occasional visiting pigeon. Pacific Bell hopes to make a deal with the church to install mobile communications equipment in the steeple to improve cellular phone service in Noe Valley.

"Noe Valley is getting poorer service than other neighborhoods because it does not have an antenna," said Lynn Bunim, director of Pac Bell's External Affairs Department. "We would like to give people service as good as any they would get driving down Van Ness Avenue."

The debate unfolding in response to the proposal has left most people standing in the middle listening to two groups with radically different philosophies about how much we should allow technology to intrude into our lives.

"It seems to me there are two camps in Noe Valley," said Harry Stern, who is monitoring the issue for the residents group Friends of Noe Valley.

"We have the techies, who are 'online,' surf the Web, use a fax machine, and carry a cell phone," he said.

"We also have the Luddites, who are opposed to everything technological. They are hardcore anti-computer, they view cell phones with suspicion," continued Stern, "and they wonder why they should have to put up with these telecommunications systems just because some yuppie guy wants to use his cell phone."

In early August, Pacific Bell unveiled its plans at a community meeting at the church, an 111-year-old Gothic Victorian at 1021 Sanchez St. The proposal calls for installation of three directional-panel antennas, hidden within the church steeple at about 62 feet above the sidewalk. In ad-

The Benches Are Back On 24th Street

By Dodie Hamblen

Twenty-fourth Street merchants are celebrating a victory in their battle for sidewalk benches. In late August, the city agreed to suspend enforcement of the permit rules for benches along Noe Valley's main commercial strip.

Since last spring 24th Street had been the target of a DPW crackdown on "street furniture"—the tables, chairs, planters, and benches the merchants put out in front of their shops. The city sweep caused many local businesses to remove their benches, rather than comply with costly fees and red tape.

In order to have a bench, businesses selling food had to pay an annual fee of \$100 to \$360, apply for a special permit, take out \$1,000,000 in insurance, and submit schematic drawings showing where the bench would go. Non-food-related businesses were subject to a one-

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Breaking Into Car Ownership In the City

By Erin O'Briant

Four months ago, after a painful year and a half on public transit, I gave in and bought a car.

The new-to-us '88 Honda Civic had some paint chipped off the hood, a dent in the fender, dings on the doors, and a missing hood ornament, but the car was cheap and still running, and certainly preferable to a life of waiting for Muni. It also was small enough to squeeze into a few spaces on Fair Oaks Street.

Within a week I was driving three blocks to the corner store and guiltily loving every minute of it. That was March.

Four break-ins later, it's August. And I shrink at the memory of the first attempt on my car's life:

My girlfriend Marlene and I left the house one morning at 5:45 a.m., so that I could drive her to work and keep the car. As we shut the front gate, she pointed to the car and yelled, "Erin! Look! Look!"

Like most people, I was fuzzy-headed and cranky at that hour. I admit it: The first thing I felt was irritation that she was talking so loudly. She had to put my nose three inches in front of the smashed wing window before I realized

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Voice reporter Erin O'Briant got a chance to test several cardboard window designs after her car was violated four, count 'em four times on city streets this summer. Photo by Charles Kennard



This Doorway on Blanche Alley also has a cat entrance from which our featured feline decides whether to come out and be friendly—or not.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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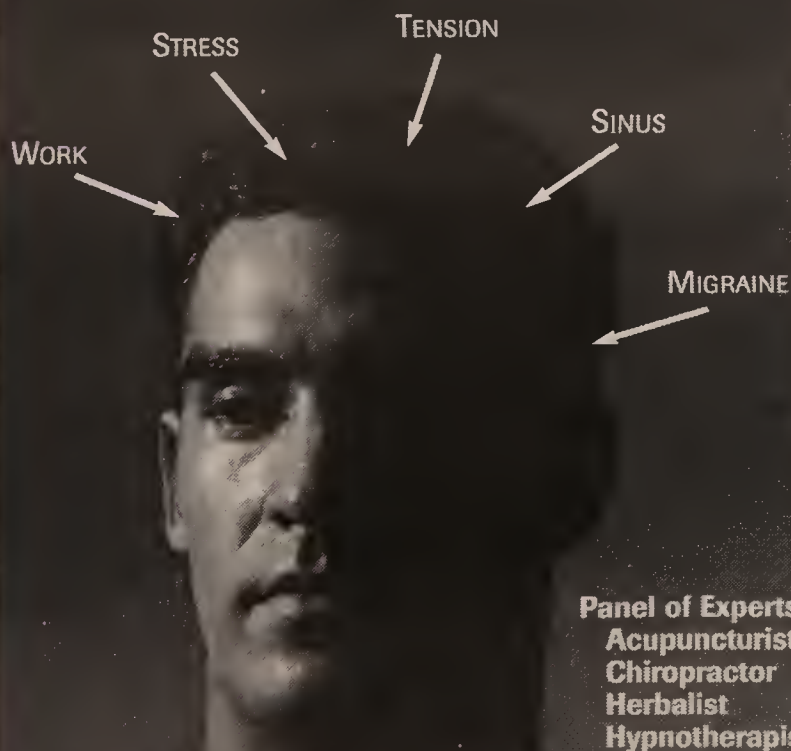
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LETTERS 32¢

Dogs Face Harassment Too

Editor:

If there have been nannies who have been harassed at Noe Courts Park, I apologize on behalf of all dog owners. However, your story ["Neighbors in a Dog Fight Over Noe Courts," July/August 1997 *Voice*] neglected to mention that dogs and dog owners also have been harassed.

I myself have had a hotheaded basketball-playing man (with his 10- to 12-year-old son) come up and use a string of profanity because a dog had wandered too close to his basketball game. My response was, "You kiss your own mother with that mouth?" The basketball player reacted with further verbal profanity and physical intimidation. The sad truth is, it wasn't even my animal. I only knew the dog's name and knew he would come to me if called.

Dog owners are not the problem with the grass. Drainage is.

Suzanne Woodard
Via e-mail

Passionate Plea for Permit Zones

Editor:

I would like to reply to a letter by Robert T. Roddick, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, published in your June 1997 issue. The letter was titled "Parking Solutions for the Urban Village."

As a longtime Elizabeth Street homeowner and resident, I found Mr. Roddick's response to my neighbors' request for a residential permit parking zone to be totally unfair and misguided. It is my opinion that the merchants, joined by the local commercial landlords, are acting as if it's their way or no way in Noe Valley.

How many of these merchants actually live in the proposed permit area?

Mr. Roddick stated that the zone idea would only move all-day parkers into someone else's back yard. What do they think has already happened? For years these outside elements have taken up more and more of our neighborhood parking, with the result that we homeowners and high-rent tenants now have none.

Neighborhoods like North Beach, Clement Street, the Sunset, and the Castro, which have a great deal more auto and foot traffic than Noe Valley, all have permit parking. And they're sure surviving.

What have the NVMPA and 24th Street's commercial landlords done for the homeowners and tenants in the proposed permit area? Auto repair shops shuttle their customers' autos back and forth onto the side streets. Twenty-fourth Street landlords send threatening letters to residents because a permit zone is not in their best interest. Then they accuse us of being racist when we complain about burnt meat and other foul odors coming from the restaurants. They build add-ons without legal permits, turn apartments into illegal commercial spaces or eateries, and create noise and litter that intrudes into our homes, yards, and lives.

Mr. Roddick keeps hollering about diagonal parking. Yes, fine, we need it. But first we need to put a time limit on the existing parking spaces on Jersey and Elizabeth streets.

Mrs. S. Wallender
Elizabeth Street

Rearranging the Street Furniture

Editor:

Flower pots, trees, benches, small tables with chairs and flower stands on sidewalks are pieces of street furniture that add civility and charm to a neighborhood streetscape. These items improve the ambiance of a pedestrian walking area, making it more people-friendly. As long as a six-foot passageway is maintained, the

sidewalk is accessible to everyone.

It is not constructive for the City of San Francisco to try to discourage these small amenities and in many cases force the removal of benches from the sidewalks of Noe Valley ("Benches on 24th Street Disappearing," July/August *Voice*).

The cost of the permit and a million dollars in insurance, plus all the red tape, are too much to bear for the smaller shops. It seems the city is trying to punish people for trying to make the neighborhood a better place.

The real culprits of sidewalk obstruction in San Francisco are newspaper vending machines and a few merchants (not located on 24th Street) who pile large displays of merchandise on the walkways. The city should be dealing with these very real problems and not spending its time and money forcing citizens to remove flowers and benches from unobstructed sidewalks.

Michael Hager
29th Street

The Benches We So Value

Editor:

I am writing to clarify a point in your July/August story titled "Benches on 24th Street Disappearing." My 1993 legislation amending the Public Works Code (Section 5.3) related to sidewalk displays of merchandise, not to benches. The legislation covering tables and chairs (DPW Section 5.2), which was the basis for the recent enforcement actions against public benches by the Department of Public Works, was authored by Supervisor Angela Alioto and not by me.

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Mutts March For Civil Rights

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to pass a resolution recommending the Noe Courts time-sharing plan to Mayor Willie Brown, who has the power to rein in the Recreation and Park Department.

"We're consciously taking a reasoned, legislative approach," said Tom Mills, an active member of the coalition. "We want to avoid a provocative, civil-disobedience route, which can be really divisive." That's why the group decided to discard the original name for their parade down 24th Street: Critical Mutts.

At press time, a group of coalition members were gearing up to meet with Supervisor Leslie Katz to discuss their proposal. "This has become a big issue for a lot of people in Noe Valley," said Kate Dyer, a lawyer and coalition activist. "It's not going away."

Meanwhile, the parents who requested the dog ban in the first place say things at the park have gotten better — and they want it to stay that way. They, too, have organized, forming a group called the Noe Courts Preservation Committee. And they submitted their own petition with more than 300 signatures to the mayor's office in mid-July.

Members of the anti-dog group say they're not interested in negotiating a return of off-leash privileges. Such a compromise was worked out two years ago,



Dog owners have asked the city to let them run their animals off leash at certain hours—before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m.—at Noe Courts Park. But for now, the dogs must stay reined in at all times.
Photo by Beverly Tharp

only to fall apart this summer.

"It didn't work the first time, and it will not work now," said Susan Levinson, who lives on 24th Street with her two children, ages 8 and 9. "This park is just too small."

She said her group was still working to ban dogs from Noe Courts. But they

hoped to reach out to the dog owners with a proposal to fix up the official dog run above Douglass Playground (at Douglass and 27th). Right now, the run amounts to little more than a rough hillside trail, part of which skirts a fence with a sign that reads, "Hazardous Cliffs, Stay Back."

Daniel McLaughlin, another parent who has worked to ban dogs from Noe Courts, acknowledged that the dispute had driven a wedge between normally friendly neighbors.

"And that saddens me," he said. "I hope we can work together." □

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That fact, however, does not lessen my interest in the matter and in the feelings of Noe Valley residents.

Since the publishing of your article, as well as articles in the *Examiner*, the DPW has taken action to streamline and simplify the permit process for benches provided for public convenience. The goal is to keep the benches which your neighborhood so values.

I applaud your newspaper and the Noe Valley neighborhood for publicizing your concerns, and the Department of Public Works for its responsiveness to those concerns.

Barbara Kaufman
Member

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

How About a Nice Soft Sofa

Editor:

The city currently requires non-food businesses to pay a one-time sidewalk encroachment fee of \$218 for putting out tables and chairs and other "street furniture" in front of their shops. Food-serving businesses pay an annual fee (per chair or table) and need a million dollars in insurance coverage. Also, six feet of sidewalk must be kept open for foot traffic.

This seems fair for sidewalk encroachment that extends the store's business to the sidewalk. But it is *only* fair if the entire city is required to pay these charges, not just three singled-out neighborhoods, as reported in the July/August *Voice*.

Residents should note that benches are not mentioned specifically in the city code. The Department of Public Works merely decided to include them in its interpretation of the rules during a sweep this spring.

The East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club thinks the Department of

Public Works should back off on requiring *any* fee for a non-food business that puts out a bench solely for the use of shoppers and senior citizens to sit, rest, and enjoy the passing parade.

And let's not charge anyone anything until the entire city is in compliance!

Paul Kantus
President
East & West of Castro Street
Improvement Club

A Note from the Principal's Office

We want to thank you and all your staff for your continuous support for our school. We want to especially thank Denise Minor, who wrote the wonderful, detailed article about Alvarado [June 1997 issue]. Thanks also to Jack Tipple, who delivered a stack of papers so that we could distribute them to everyone. Your story generated positive responses from

parents, staff, and the community. But there is no greater tribute than to have children attend school here.

Parents are eager to enroll their children and are on the waiting list for kindergarten classes, especially the Spanish immersion classes. The district looks favorably upon our school, and the community feels closer to us through your efforts.

I hope you will continue to write about us. Thank you!

Phyllis Matsuno
Principal
Alvarado Elementary School
625 Douglass St.

Funeral School Welcomes Visits

Editor:

This is a heartfelt thank-you for the fine article about us in the June issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* ["Considering a Career As a Mortician?"].

Writer Rayne Wolfe and photographer

Charlie Kennard were delightful to meet. The story took a very candid look "behind the scenes" without resorting to the sarcastic sensationalism used so often in media coverage of the funeral industry.

Public information and education are part of our mission, and we appreciate your interest in giving the community a glimpse at something they might otherwise only consider when they have to.

Jacquie Taylor
President
San Francisco College
of Mortuary Science
1598 Dolores St.

Glen Canyon Has a Typical Creek

Editor:

I commend Carolyn Dickinson for her well-reasoned comments on Steve Steinberg's piece about the car ban in Glen

Continued on Next Page



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LETTERS

Continued from Previous Page

Canyon Park [Letters, July/August 1997].

In contrast to Lyn Estrella's harangue on everything from dogs blocking car access to Glen Canyon to dog poop, Ms. Dickinson's letter clearly expostulates many of the reasons Rec and Park decided to close Glen Canyon to car traffic.

Ms. Estrella, in her rush to judgment that dogs will be the ruination of parks, bandies about inaccurate information. She blatantly misrepresents the conclusions of environmental studies made in Glen Canyon. One such study, by Western Ecological Services Company, in fact stated that "both the field and laboratory analyses [of water quality] indicate typical urban water quality conditions, as influenced by roadways, parking lots, residential housing, and domestic animals within the Islais Creek watershed."

This is quite a different story than Ms. Estrella's purported "dangerously high levels of E. coli bacteria from dog feces in Islais Creek."

Again, thank you for your comprehensive article on our community's success in preserving Glen Canyon's as a significant natural resource.

Barbara Zierten
Chenery Street

Don't Fence Me Out

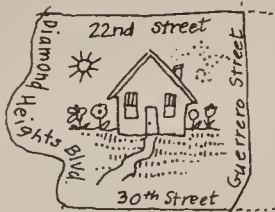
Editor:

As for the July/August Rumors question about the boundaries of Noe Valley, according to a map put out by the San Francisco Association of Realtors, the boundaries of Noe Valley are 22nd Street on the north, 30th on the south, Guerrero on the east, and Diamond Heights Boulevard and Market on the west.

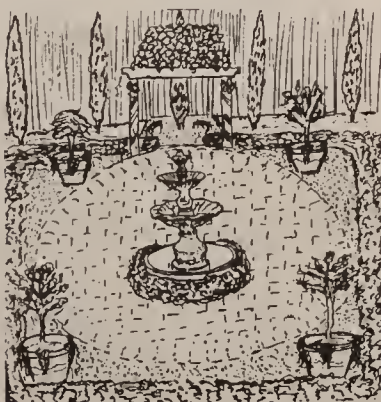
I am a realtor and a Noe Valley resident since 1972.

Gail Inlander
Fair Oaks Street

Editor's Note: Gail Inlander drew us a map, which we've tried to replicate here.



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Is There a Parrot Lady Out There?

Dear Voice:

It would be interesting to know more about the flock of parrots that often roost in the palm tree at 24th and Dolores and are seen flying and squawking from Mission Dolores south to at least 24th Street.

I have been told they are "canary-winged parakeets," an altogether different species from the flock on Telegraph Hill, which are primarily cherry-headed conures. Someone thought the Mission flock — there seem to be around 15 or 20 birds — originated from a single escaped pair.

I'd be interested to find out if any of your readers or staff know anything about their history or habits.

Jean La Pez
Dolores Street

Dear Jean: Check out Mazook's Rumors column on page 43 of this issue. He landed a few words about the birds from an expert at the California Academy of Sciences. But the Voice would love to hear more from readers with firsthand experience with the parrots.

Plant Store Creator Remembers His Roots

Dear Folks:

Just checked you guys out on the Internet. Nice work. I'm the former owner of Plant Works [a plant store now occupied by Posh Bagels]. I've been in Lake County for 17 years now, but still enjoy keeping up with Noe Valley via the Voice. I still trip around 24th Street a few times a year on my jaunts to the city, and Dr. Coragene Savio is still my dentist.

I have been practicing law in Lake County since 1981. Your 20th anniversary issue [May 1997] inspired me to think about my Noe Valley days.

When I first moved to Vicksburg Street in 1973, there were no stop signs on 24th Street. But everyone stopped to let you cross at the crosswalks anyway—I recall being amazed at this when I arrived from the East Coast.

My store was called Plant Works (Double Rainbow moved in after me, and I guess now it's bagels) and was across from the old Spanish Church. In the 1970s, I spent much time sitting on their steps, watching the world go by, waiting for someone to enter my store across the street. Then I would dodge the cars and run across to my store.

I do remember the street fairs (24th Street) of the mid-'70s, one of which I organized for the Noe Valley Merchants Association. I recall that we younger merchants took over the association, causing Harry Aleo to leave and start the Noe Valley Business and Professional Organization, which I guess eventually merged back into the other group.

Of course I remember the old Acme Metal Spinning Works Cafe, run by Joel and Fran Coopersmith, and those great omelets. I remember a quiet but exciting little street in 1973, with a lot of young merchants moving in and getting started.

I remember Larry and Paul from Books Plus (one of the first "new" stores, now Cover to Cover), along with Linda and Helen at Common Scents. Peggy was next door to me with her great little store called Cathexis. Kimball Allen came to the street and started the Real Food Com-

pany and then the Woodworks, which became a Chinese restaurant [Tien Fu].

I'm still in touch with Tom Crane from Colorcrane and his son, Simon, who graduates from college this year. And I'll always remember the young kid who walked the streets with his guitar hanging from his neck—usually singing and strumming—I don't think I ever knew his name.

Twenty-fourth Street was a wonderful, eclectic street in the '70s—a lot of fun! A lot of hippies, a fair number of gay folks, and a lot of the traditional working-class residents of Noe Valley. The "yuppies" that seem so prevalent now were virtually invisible. I can remember Victorians selling for \$25,000 that are now probably going for \$450,000. Wish I'd got in on that then!

Anyway, enough rambling. I'll get too homesick for Noe Valley. Best to all.

Ron Green
P.O. Box 1110, Lower Lake, CA
95457

Anniversary Greetings

Editor:

Friends keep telling me what a terrific piece you published about me [May 1997], and I like it very much too, thanks to Kathy Dalle-Molle. She's a first-class interviewer and writer, who'd not only done her homework and knew more about me than I did, but who put me at ease immediately.

Please thank your photographer Beverly Tharp as well—and congratulations on your 20th anniversary. I wish you at least 20 more.

Cyra McFadden
Author of *The Serial*
and *Rain or Shine*

Mom Says Hello

Editor:

Congratulations on the anniversary of your interesting and community-oriented newspaper.

Recently, as I read Jane Underwood's article titled "Mom's Visit" [May 1997], I couldn't help shedding a tear or two.

By now you're wondering how an East Coast mother gets to read your paper. One of your photographers (Pamela Gerard) is my daughter, and she sends me the Voice.

Keep up the good work.

Ruth Gerard
Meredith, New Hampshire

A Pat on the Back from a Dad

Editor:

I enjoyed the stories in the latest Voice as recorded on your Web page [www.noevalleyvoice.com].

The police report [by Officer Lois Perillo] restores one's confidence in public servants. She obviously does a great job on the beat and writes excellent, concise factual reports for the Voice.

But the Rumors item about the poor owner of the donut shop, whose troubles were caused by an overzealous "cabaret license" inspector, burst my bubble. The inspector and the city planners seem to be anti-public servants.

Oh well. Win some, lose some. We look forward to seeing you at your high school reunion.

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The Benches Are Back!

Continued from Page 1

time sidewalk encroachment fee of \$218, which also required schematic plans.

In mid-July, after a story in the *Noe Valley Voice* was followed up by a piece in the *San Francisco Examiner*, DPW announced it would drop the fees for benches in front of non-food businesses. "The fees will be revoked," said DPW spokesperson Alex Mamak, "and fees collected so far will be returned."

The Noe Valley Merchants Association was not fully satisfied, however. DPW never issued anything in writing, and the question of bench permits for food-related businesses was not addressed. The merchants continued to barrage City Hall with complaints.

Then on Aug. 22, following a meeting between local shopkeepers and officials from DPW, Mamak announced, "After walking 24th Street, the director [DPW Director Mark Primeau] is convinced that the benches are a public service. He has suspended enforcement of the ordinance that requires permits for *all* benches on 24th Street in Noe Valley." This includes the bench permits for food-related businesses, he said. Merchants who have paid the permit fees will be refunded.

Merchants President Robert Roddick, who represented the association at the Aug. 22 meeting, was thrilled with the outcome. "Fantastic," he said. "I think it's about time some rationality came to city government."

Reaction along 24th Street was equally jubilant. Patti Wood, owner of the Wooden Heel Shoe Repair, has reinstalled the bench she removed this spring after being hassled by the city. "Since the bench is back, everyone is stopping by to say, 'We're so glad you brought it back.' The bench is loaded with people all the time. I'm very happy. Everyone is happy."

Harry Aleo, owner of Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street, said, "The meeting [with DPW] was productive. We got what we wanted. If merchants spend the money [for a bench], they should be complimented, not penalized."

Carol Yenne, owner of the children's clothing store Small Frys, is "thrilled that the city and the Merchants Association are working together to make benches available to the public. It adds to the ambience of the neighborhood."

Noe Valley residents strolling 24th



People-watchers on 24th Street were pleased to see the return of the bench in front of the Wooden Heel, after the city relaxed its sidewalk laws last month. Photo by Charles Kennard

Street also applauded the news. Lynn O'Kelley, mother of an infant and a preschooler, said, "I'm glad the city backed down on this issue. Sidewalk benches are one of the things that make Noe Valley feel like a small town."

Owners of food businesses were particularly enthusiastic about the reprieve. Ali Keshavarz, owner of Tom Peasant Pies, had been deeply discouraged by all the bureaucracy he faced last spring. Now he says, "I couldn't be happier. I think merchants and neighbors should realize that it's important to believe in their cause. This gives me hope that there are still old-world values."

Mary Gassen, owner of the Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Co., plans to put her bench back right away. "I think it's great. I had to sit next door on the Wooden Heel's bench when I was here with my

baby last week."

As for DPW, Director Primeau said last month that the decision to suspend bench permits reflected the department's desire to be more customer service oriented. He also noted that "the Public Works Code has not been revised since it was adopted by the city over 50 years ago. The bench issue is a perfect example of why the code needs to be rewritten."

He added that his department had started rewriting the code several months ago, and would be working with neighborhood and merchant groups to make sure it reflected common sense.

In the meantime, merchants who'd like to put a bench in front of their store should contact Denise Brady, chief of street use and mapping, at 554-5801. She'll fill them in on the safety guidelines. □

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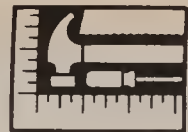
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Cell Phone Antennas May Be Housed in Ministry Steeple

Continued from Page 1

dition, a small cabinet containing a transceiver would be located on the north roof of the building.

Noe Valley Needs Better Reception

The Pac Bell equipment is designed to help local transmission for the company's Personal Communications Services (PCS). "PCS" is also shorthand for the latest generation of digital cell phones and pagers.

Bunim of Pac Bell told the 30 people in attendance at the meeting that PCS phone service in Noe Valley would vastly improve with the Ministry antennas.

"We've been getting complaints that our service in Noe Valley is not as good as in other areas," she said, noting that Noe Valley was one of the last neighborhoods to get an antenna site. Cellular phones need to "see" an antenna in order to transmit a signal, she said, and this is difficult in San Francisco because there are so many hills.

Bunim also pointed out that mobile phones could be especially helpful in emergencies. "During the 1989 earthquake, cellular phones were the lifeline to the Marina," she said.

In anticipation of questions about any health risks that might be posed by the technology, Pac Bell brought along a consultant, Dr. Jerold Bushberg, director of health physics programs at U.C. Davis Medical Center.

Bushberg said the Pac Bell antennas would emit directional, low-energy, non-ionizing radiation at a very low frequency. "There is no identifiable health hazard at this threshold," he said.

He noted that PCS radiation was the same type as that emanating from a TV, microwave, baby monitor, or AM/FM clock radio. Non-ionizing radiation differs from X-rays in that it is noncumulative, Bushberg said.

What About the Health Risks?

But audience member Christopher Beaver said he was still worried about the potential cumulative effect of the many sources of radiation that surround us, including emissions from Sutro Tower. Others at the meeting asked if, once Pacific Bell installed its antennas, GTE and Cellular One couldn't then install their own communications systems in the tower, in effect tripling the radiation coming from the steeple.

Bushberg said the radiation levels were so low that he didn't foresee a health hazard, even in the event that other companies installed antennas nearby.

Bunim noted that the city's Department of Public Health spent two years studying the issue and developing safety standards in line with those adopted by the Federal Communications Commission. She pointed out that the radiation emitted from their telecommunications equipment fell well below FCC guidelines. "The signal emits less [radiation] than you'd get if you were a policeperson with a radio," she said.

According to Pac Bell handouts, the current FCC standard for continuous exposure to PCS frequencies (approximately 1,800 megahertz) is 1,000 microwatts per square centimeter. People living near an FM radio station transmitter are typically exposed to 100 microwatts/cm². Those using a microwave oven are exposed to an average of 20 microwatts/cm². And those living near the



Just for Fun Racks Up 10 Years: The gift store Just for Fun celebrated its 10th anniversary on 24th Street (near Noe) this summer. And store owners David Eiland and Robert Ramsey say they look forward to another decade of being Noe Valley's "small-town department store. We have candles, soaps, magnets, toys, games, photo albums, journals, frames, tables, lamps, and even blow-up chairs." They also have 11 fulltime employees and several part-timers, who carry their own entourage of "dogs, birds, and babies, wandering all around the place." The shop offers Scribbledoodles—a line of imprintable invitations and stationery—and a big selection of birthday cards and postcards. Employee Jan Alfonso (above) has to restock the racks on almost a daily basis. Best wishes, gang!

Photo by Beverly Tharp

typical PCS transmission site are exposed to about 1 microwatt per square centimeter, the Pac Bell literature claims.

Church Should Play Devil's Advocate

Jorge Bustamante lives next door to the Ministry at 1031 Sanchez St. He voiced his concern that the studies were based on the maximum allowable exposure to adults, not children or people with compromised immune systems.

He also said he was concerned that there might be other health risks posed by living in the shadow of these antennas that health officials didn't even know how to look for because the technology was so new.

"I have two small children, and I don't want to learn several years down the road that they have been exposed to anything that could harm them," said Bustamante. "They are the most precious thing I have."

Bustamante said he was certainly not anti-technology. His wife is a school district instructor who regularly teaches adults and children in how to use computers. But he would like to get more information about the antennas, possibly from a group with scientific knowledge who could play devil's advocate.

"I would like to have a meeting with just the neighbors, the minister, and some group that is both knowledgeable and critical of this type of technology, so we could address our concerns without the intervention of a company that is trying to convince us these things would be good for us," said Bustamante.

Minister Joan Huff said she did not know how willing the church would be to seek out a devil's advocate, but that she had invited the city's Health Department to hold a meeting with parents of the Noe Valley Cooperative Nursery School, which is housed at the Ministry. She added that the meeting would be open to anyone else who might be interested.

"The Health Department has studied this for two years, and I hope they will be able to address everyone's concerns about the health issues," said Huff.

City Has Set Limits on Exposure

Other neighborhoods with similar mobile communications equipment have had questions about the health risks, said Stephen Garcia of Telecommunications Management Services, who has been contracted by Pac Bell to help with installation of antennas throughout the city.

"That's why the Department of Health took such a long time to study the research on this issue," he said. "San Francisco has adopted very explicit requirements as far as exposure to PCS frequencies. In that way, they don't have to deal with the health issues on a case-by-case basis."

About 30 antenna sites have been installed so far, said Garcia, and he personally has worked to clear the way for installation in six neighborhoods.

Friends May Stay Neutral

Stern from Friends of Noe Valley was impressed by Pac Bell's presentation at the meeting. "They were well prepared. I think they learned from Sprint," he said.

(In January, Sprint asked the city to okay installation of four antennas and a transceiver station atop the newly restored Hoffman Fire Station. But the neighbors made such an outcry, Sprint dropped the firehouse idea this spring.)

Stern was a human factors and systems safety specialist for 30 years, and is knowledgeable about non-ionizing radiation.

"I'm reasonably well satisfied that, given the type of equipment they are proposing and the testing they have done, there will be no health hazard posed by the antennae, at least no hazards that we now know how to look for," said Stern.

"However, there still might be some unknown effects from things not addressed by their studies. We aren't completely certain about the cumulative effect of antennas from more than one phone company and from various types of electromagnetic radiation. Also, we don't know whether this radiation might act differently over rolling hills or in urban environments where it can be reflected off the buildings," he continued.

"Because of that, my personal opinion is one of neutrality," Stern said. "And at the next meeting of the Friends of Noe Valley, I will propose a neutral position."

Pastor Huff said that the Ministry had not yet taken a position on the equipment either. Pac Bell approached the church earlier in the year, and the Ministry was simply allowing the company to hold informational meetings.

She said she was not at liberty to say how much Pac Bell was offering to pay for use of the steeple, since that was still in negotiation.

"Our financial situation is such that any

increased income from building use fees would be a godsend," said Huff. "But we won't go ahead if our neighbors really don't want us to."

Paula Marks, administrative director for the Noe Valley Ministry, said that many of her concerns about the antennas were allayed at the August meeting.

"I personally had a lot of questions about this before the meeting, and I really didn't think it would fly," she said. "But the information provided by Pac Bell was very encouraging, and now I don't have any health concerns for myself."

"But if the community doesn't want this, we won't pursue it," she added.

Huff said that final approval from the Ministry would have to come from the Session, the Presbyterian church's governing body of six elders.

Antennas Require Special Permit

Garcia said that if the Ministry gave Pac Bell the go-ahead, the issue would then go before the Planning Commission. He noted that Pac Bell would have to obtain a conditional use permit and that neighbors living within 300 feet of the proposed installation would be given written notice of hearings.

Bunim said she had heard from associates at Pac Bell that the Ministry site had the tentative support of the Planning Commission. "The Planning Commission likes this site very much," she said. "They have indicated that every neighborhood needs an antenna, and that for Noe Valley this would be a good location."

But Commissioner Hector Chinchilla, whom Bunim suggested the *Voice* contact, said he knew nothing about the proposal. Planner Edy Zwierzycki, who is in charge of investigating planning issues that affect Noe Valley, also said she had not studied the proposed antenna station at the Ministry and that she would not do so until the commission received a formal request from Pac Bell.

At the public meeting, Bunim said that if the Ministry did not accept the antennas, her company would look for another site in Noe Valley. □

Those who'd like to discuss the situation with the church should call Paula Marks at 282-2317. To direct questions to Pac Bell, call Lynn Bunim of Pacific Telesis Group at 394-3673 (fax: 394-3698).

Your Car Is Their Castle

Continued from Page 1

what had happened.

I thought I knew what to do. First, I drove Marlene to work, despite the damaged car. When I got home, I covered the hole with a red plastic Nordstrom Rack shopping bag and scotch tape. Finally, I called the police so they could get started on their investigation.

Oddly, the guys at Mission Police Station (which covers Noe Valley between 21st and Cesar Chavez) didn't seem to want to investigate. Nothing was stolen, there were no witnesses, it wasn't a hate crime. They suggested I file a report "if you want to," adding that I could do it over the phone. Then they transferred my call.

But the folks at Teleserve, the telephone reporting service, said, sorry, they couldn't file my report. I should come down to Mission Station on Valencia Street if I wanted to report the break-in. Recognizing a good runaround when I heard one, I hung up dejectedly.

That night I removed the tattered Nordstrom bag from the window, figuring your average criminal might view a bag taped over the window as an invitation to "come in and browse." If I left the window bare, it would look more like the glass was still in place.

The next morning Marlene drove herself to work and called me when she arrived. "You won't believe this," she said. "I drove halfway to work with the back door flapping in the breeze. Somebody broke in again last night, and they left it open."

The would-be thief (again, they apparently couldn't find anything to

steal) had entered the car through the hole where the wing window had been busted out the night before.

With no additional damage done and nothing stolen, I decided to skip talking to the cops this time. Marlene, cleverer than I, used packing tape to secure a thick piece of cardboard over the hole (which remains there to this day because the glass company wants \$150 to replace a window the size of a handkerchief... a different story).

After a few weeks, just as Marlene and I were telling ourselves the break-ins had been a fluke, it happened again. This time someone pulled the rubber strip out from around the driver's-side window, pried it open, and unlocked the door. They took the car's registration (which still had the previous owner's name on it), proof of insurance (on which my name was misspelled), and a cherished dance tape that included my all-time favorite, "Disco Inferno."

Incredibly, the day after the third break-in, the correct registration and insurance card came in the mail, leading me to believe that despite three break-ins in six weeks and the loss of "Disco Inferno," the automotive gods were still smiling upon us and our dented, dinged, windowless, hood-ornamentless, paint-chipped, and driver's-side-rubber-thing-less car.

At this point, I called Officer Lois Perillo, a Noe Valley police officer and regular contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice* (I'm not above pulling strings). Officer Perillo advised me that the best thing to do was form a SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) group with my neighbors. We could all watch out for one another's cars and report any suspicious activities.

That sounded like a good idea—and I still might do it—but I really wanted the cops to take care of the watching

part, so that I didn't have to spend the wee hours of the morning standing on my balcony waiting for a criminal to strike.

I didn't know what else to do, so I tried not to think about it for a while.

But several weeks after the third break-in, I felt brave enough to try reporting the incidents to the police again. The folks at Mission Station assured me that Teleserve could indeed file my report over the phone and again offered to transfer my call. Seven minutes later, a dispatcher answered, and he in turn transferred me to Teleserve. After an endless 19 minutes on hold, an officer answered my call and offered to take my report.

She reeled off a string of questions: what type of car was it, where was it parked, what was taken. During the entire conversation, the officer showed not a smidgen of sympathy for my ordeal. As the phone call was winding down, I asked if she knew why it had taken a full 26 minutes for me to get through to Teleserve.

She explained, again unsympathetically, that Mondays were especially busy because Teleserve was closed over the weekend and that fewer officers were on duty because it was the lunch hour. (Actually, it *wasn't* the lunch hour when I called, but 26 minutes later it was just past noon.) But at least I had done my (Honda) Civic duty and reported the break-in.

I called Officer Perillo again, this time on her day off. She graciously explained a few things that eased my mind, if not about the car thieves running loose on the streets, at least about how the police had handled my complaint.

"If someone leaves their car at, say, 11 o'clock at night and then comes out at 8 in the morning and it's been broken into, even if there are fingerprints in the car of someone who is known to do this type of break-in, that still doesn't prove anything," Officer Perillo said. "Also, even fingerprints in the car could have come from somebody else during the course of the night."

"So that's why an officer doesn't come out unless the crime just occurred or unless there is a witness or some other type of evidence," she continued. "But it's important to report break-ins because they allow the police to form a map of where auto boosts are happening. That's how they allocate patrols and resources."

And she assured me I was not alone. While her Noe Valley beat generally

Fun Facts About Auto Break-Ins

- ☞ Cool people, like cops and criminals, refer to car break-ins as "auto boosts."
- ☞ The police officers in charge of catching the auto boosters are called the "Auto Detail."
- ☞ There are three main groups of auto boosters:
 1. People who are looking for something to sell.
 2. Folks who break into your car just for the thrill of it.
 3. Gangs initiating new members. You'll know by the attractive graffiti they leave in your car.
- ☞ Five things you can do to prevent the boosters from getting you next time:
 1. If you have a garage, put your car in it. *Hello?!*
 2. If you have fancy stuff like portable stereos and cell phones, don't leave them lying around in your car. Buy a car stereo that has a removable face plate.
 3. If you can find parking, choose a space in a well-lit area without overhanging trees.
 4. If you can afford it, get a silent alarm that pages you when it's activated. (Don't even think about getting one of those alarms that wails with every passing motorcycle. Your neighbors will kill you.)
 5. If all else fails, ditch the car. Try biking or walking. Or get back on Muni.

experiences about 15 to 20 car break-ins a month, the numbers were 36 in June and 34 in July. Four people were arrested. (With statistics like that, I'm expecting to see a few more cop cars cruising Fair Oaks Street in the months ahead. Keep your eyes peeled.)

After Officer Perillo explained the situation, I felt better. Maybe it's not that the cops don't care. It's that there's not much they can do about break-ins like mine.

Just as I was finishing up this story, secure in the knowledge that bad things happen in threes and that I was not due for another break-in until the year 2000, the car vandal(s) struck again. They broke in through the cardboard window Marlene had put up, and ransacked the glove compartment, lifting a freesia sachet and a half-empty box of Kleenex.

Here we go again. But this time I won't call the San Francisco Police Department anywhere near the lunch hour.

Oh, and the window? My father, who lives in Athens, Georgia, found a replacement window at a junkyard there and is mailing it to me.... Now if I can just figure out how to get it in. □

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POLICE BEAT

Five Robbers and a Pool Cue

By Officer Lois Perillo

The Noe Valley community reported five robberies to Mission District police during June and July.

The first occurred at 4:45 p.m. on June 3 at 26th and Noe, and involved three younger teen boys who robbed a 12-year-old boy. All suspects were identified, and the case was assigned to Inspector Glenn Pamiloff of the Juvenile Division.

In the second incident, on June 18 just after 6 a.m., a 39-year-old woman was robbed of her purse by a 30-year-old man who had exited a car and approached her while she waited for the J-Church streetcar at 22nd and Church. The man grabbed the purse and struggled with the woman, who held fast until the purse strap broke. The suspect then got back into his blue four-door sedan and fled east on 22nd Street and then south on Chattanooga. He was not apprehended.

A 50-year-old woman was robbed of her purse on the 1600 block of Castro Street by a 25-year-old male on July 13 just before 6 p.m. Further information about this incident was not included in the police report. The targeted woman spoke primarily Polish, and a translator was not available to the reporting officers.

Also on July 13, at around 6:50 p.m., a 15-year-old boy stopped Officer Lorraine Lombardo and me as we patrolled 24th Street. He said he had been robbed by a man who was now inside the Rat & Raven Bar. The teen explained that he had been standing with a friend outside Walgreens on Castro near Jersey a half-hour earlier, when a 21-year-old man grabbed him by his shirt, reached into the teen's pants pocket, and stole his money. The boys rollerbladed in pursuit of the man to the Rat & Raven and then waited across the street until they saw us.

We entered the bar, and the teen immediately identified the robber as he was preparing to make a shot at the pool table. I handcuffed the suspect—yes, before he made his shot—and took him and his pool cue to Mission Station, where he was booked on robbery and possession of methamphetamine.

Since then, I was ordered to court on the matter, where the defense attorney reported the suspect was now in a drug treatment program and argued that his client should not be held to answer on the robbery charge. The judge saw things differently and ordered the man to appear in Superior Court on both felony charges—robbery and drug possession.

In the last robbery of the month, which happened July 18 at 10:10 a.m., a 54-

year-old woman was walking west on 25th Street toward Church when a man who had just driven up in a four-door maroon car exited and approached her. The man grabbed the strap of her briefcase and pulled on it, dragging her to the ground and causing a cut to her finger before he ripped the case away.

According to witnesses, the man then got back in the car, now driven by another man, and fled west on 25th Street to northbound Church Street. Sorry, no arrest yet in this case.

Burglar Gets Bagged in the Ivy

One evening in late June, police spotted a 50-year-old man attempting to hide in the ivy growing alongside the J-Church tracks at 20th and Church. After drawing him out of the bushes, they arrested him for burglary when a witness identified him as the same man who had broken into her house on the 400 block of Jersey Street.

The witness told officers Paul Weggenman and Andrew MacIlrath that she had exited and locked her house at 7 p.m. on June 29. When she returned an hour later, the woman heard a noise coming from her bedroom. She called out until the suspect finally came forward carrying a bag and remarking, "This is the only shit I could find." He also told her he was sick and needed money. Then he threw the bag on the floor and left the house.

Police found a glove in the suspect's pocket, which was later identified by the witness as her property. Also, the burglar apparently entered the house through a rear window by shattering the glass. Blood was found near the broken glass, and a blood sample was taken from the suspect, who was a resident of the 3400 block of 17th Street. He remains in custody, pending a court appearance.

I would like to commend the witness for her involvement and success. She maintained her composure and provided important information to police. However, I would not necessarily recommend her method to others faced with similar circumstances.

If you return to your home and hear the sounds of a person who should not be there, exit immediately and lock the door. Go to a neighbor's house and dial 911 to report a possible burglar inside your house.

Bloody Noses and Taxi Rides

On July 19 just after midnight, a 30-year-old man punched another man in the nose in a dispute over a taxicab ride. Officers Martha Juarez and Elena Teper responded and took the suspect to Mission Station, where he was booked on a battery charge. Note: If the man had been carrying proper i.d., he might have been released after being handed a citation to appear in court. But since he had no identification, he was arrested on the spot.

Dial D for Domestic Violence

On July 30, a 29-year-old woman and resident of the 4000 block of 25th Street reported receiving repeated phone threats and verbal harassment from her former boyfriend, who had battered her in 1996.

Responding officers Joseph Buono and Patrick Tobin contacted Commissioner Agatha Hoff, who issued an "Emergency Protective Order" (restraining order) barring the suspect from any contact with the woman, pending further judicial review.

In another domestic violence case, a 38-year-old man and resident of the 300 block of San Jose Avenue reported that his former girlfriend violated a restraining order by calling him.

To Catch a Thief

Security personnel at Bell Market on 24th Street caught several shoplifters in June and July. Those with previous convictions for theft were charged with felony counts.

In a separate incident, a 30-year-old man and resident of the 1200 block of Noe Street was arrested for shoplifting at Just for Fun gift store. He was issued a citation to appear in court on a misdemeanor charge, since he had proper i.d. and no prior theft convictions.

A total of six suspects were arrested and charged with auto burglary within Noe Valley during June and July. All were males, and four were under the age of 18. One man was sent back to state prison. Another man pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three years of probation.

Is the Safe Safe?

Sometime between store closing on June 30 and opening the next day, the safe within a store on the 3800 block of 24th Street was burglarized. Since there was no evidence of forced entry to the shop or the safe, the business owner told Officer Jack Wronski that the suspect was most likely a former employee who retained keys to the store. The owner was advised to change all the locks.

Wannabe Harley Thief Pleads Guilty

Remember the 29-year-old man who tried to steal a woman's Harley Davidson motorcycle from in front of Bell Market back in May 1996? He also injured a police officer when he attempted to flee. Well, on July 14 he finally pled guilty to auto theft in exchange for the d.a.'s dismissing the charges of assault and resisting arrest. The man received a six-month jail sentence and three years on probation.

Until next time, be safe and see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo, along with partner Lorraine Lombardo, covers her Noe Valley beat by foot and by bicycle. Her turf extends from 21st Street south to Cesar Chavez, and from Valencia west to Grand View.



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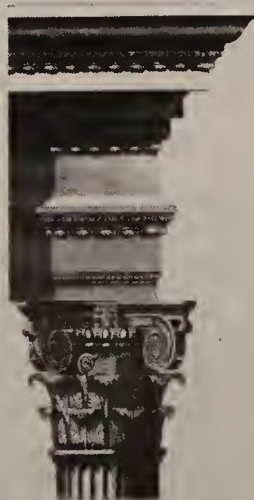
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Make Way for Street and Sewer Repairs

By Loren J. Bialik

Nine streets in Noe Valley have been tagged for road construction this winter. So get ready for the usual round of dust, din, and dumptrucks.

First, the city's Department of Public Works has scheduled three streets for repaving: Fair Oaks Street from 21st to 22nd (set for September); Sanchez from Hill to 22nd Street (December); and Dolores Street between 28th and Valley streets (May).

Starting in March, DPW will also execute ambitious plans to dig up six old sewer lines in the area—some of which are more than 70 years old—and replace them with new sewer pipes.

According to DPW project manager James Walsh, the department has inspected about half of the 450 blocks of sewers in Noe Valley. Of the rest, a quarter are newer than 50 years old and as such do not require inspection. The Bureau of Street and Sewer Repair replaces all the old sewer pipes in the city on a rotating basis.

This year's targeted streets are sprinkled throughout the neighborhood, and include sections of 23rd, 26th, and 28th, as well as Church, Dolores, and Douglass streets. The Department of Public Works was kind enough to furnish the *Voice* with a list (*see box*).

"We want to make the public more aware of work being done in their neighborhoods," says Alex Mamak, a spokesperson for DPW. "People have a right to

Upcoming Digs in the Neighborhood

Here's a list of 1997–98 construction projects supplied by the city's Department of Public Works. Residents should note that all dates are tentative and that emergency repairs for street cave-ins and sewer blockages take precedence over ongoing jobs.

Street Repaving

Street	Starts	Ends
Fair Oaks from 21st to 22nd	9/97	9/97
Sanchez from Hill to 22nd	12/97	12/97
Dolores from 28th to Valley	5/98	5/98

Sewer Replacement

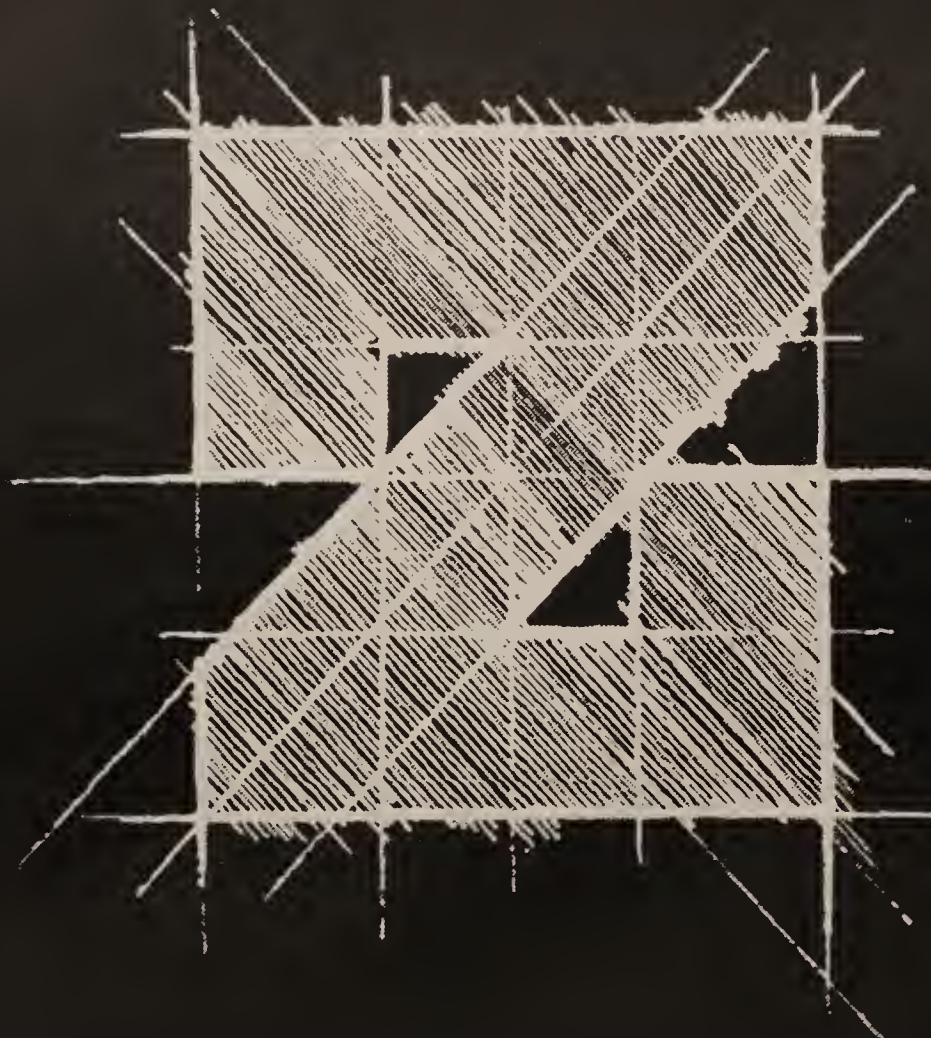
Street	Starts	Ends
23rd from Castro to Diamond	3/98	5/98
28th from Sanchez to Noe	3/98	5/98
Church from 30th to Randall	3/98	5/98
Dolores from 28th to Valley	3/98	5/98
Douglass from Jersey to 25th	3/98	5/98
26th from Dolores to Church	4/98	6/98

the same information that we as a department have."

To achieve this goal, DPW recently launched its own Web site on the Internet. At www.SFDPW.com, the public can access a list of proposed construction projects by street or by zip code. The inventory not only shows DPW work orders, but lists those of PG&E, TCI cable, and the city's Water Department.

"This is part of an overall plan to coordinate activities," notes Mamak. "The various agencies, like-DPW, Water, and PG&E, can work together and lessen the number of street openings. This means less disruption for the public."

In mid-August, spokespersons for the Water Department and PG&E said no street construction projects were currently scheduled for Noe Valley. □



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- 3. PENNE ROSA MARIA** Caramelized onions, mushrooms, roasted garlic and rosemary with virgin olive oil
- 4. PENNE ALA POLLO** Chicken strips, onions, bell pepper and fresh tomato in red sauce
- 5. LINGUINE VERDE** Onion, zucchini, spinach and artichoke hearts in pesto sauce
- 6. LINGUINE MARGHERITA** Fresh tomato, basil, garlic, crushed red pepper and chunks of white mozzarella cheese — lite red sauce
- 7. LINGUINE TOSCANA** Chicken strips, grilled zucchini, onion, mushroom, capers and roasted garlic — lite red sauce
- 8. LINGUINE PUTTANESCA** Black olives, capers, anchovies, garlic in red pesto sauce

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#3 Onions, sausage, salami, pepperoni, mushrooms & bell peppers	10.55	13.25	16.45	20.15
#4 ZORBA THE GREEK: No. 3 plus Feta (Greek Goat Cheese) & bacon (try it)	11.75	14.85	18.45	22.55
#5 LEILANI THE HAWAIIAN: Pineapple and Canadian bacon	8.15	10.05	12.45	15.35
#6 LUIGI THE ITALIAN: Pesto, garlic, fresh tomatoes	8.75	10.85	13.45	16.55
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#9 THE MERMAID: Clams & garlic	8.75	10.85	13.45	16.55
#10 OLD MACDONALD: Marinated chicken, fresh garlic, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes	11.15	14.05	17.45	21.35
#11 CLEOPATRA: Grilled eggplant, sundried tomatoes, fresh garlic, feta cheese (your choice of tomato sauce or pesto sauce)	11.15	14.05	17.45	21.35
#12 JOLLY GREEN GIANT: Broccoli, zucchini, fresh garlic, onions, mushrooms & tomatoes	11.15	14.05	17.45	21.25
Deluxe (includes artichoke hearts)	11.75	14.85	18.45	22.55
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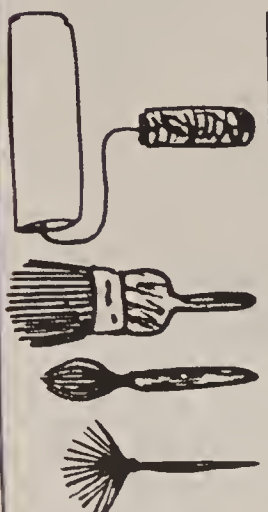
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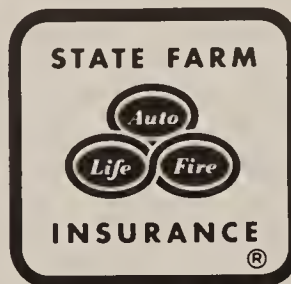
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Midnight Driver Terrorizes Neighborhood

By Jeff Troiano

The relative calm we take for granted here in Noe Valley was shattered just after midnight on Thursday, Aug. 21. For 20 tense minutes, an obviously disturbed motorist in a 1988 Nissan pickup raced through the streets, blasted through stop signs, squealed his tires, careened around corners, drove straight at oncoming cars, weaved back and forth, screeched to a halt, then repeated the process.

The driver lost control of his vehicle several times during the escapade and crashed into cars — some parked, some not — on at least four occasions. Late-night dog walkers and other pedestrians fled the streets, fearing for their safety.

Brian Conway of Sanchez Street was returning home on his bicycle when he witnessed one of the collisions.

"He slammed head-on into an older white car at Cesar Chavez and Sanchez," said Conway. "When the passengers of the white car got out to check the damage, the guy in the pickup just took off."

David Weissberg, another Sanchez Street resident, tried to identify the driver as he passed, but the suspect's windows were completely steamed over. "It was as

if he'd just left some Lover's Lane or something," he said. "It was truly weird."

In fact, it was more like he'd just left *Christine*, the movie about a vehicle with a vengeance. The crazed driver circled round and round, demolition-derby-style, glancing off parked cars, shifting in and out of reverse, and even hopping the sidewalk on Sanchez Street.

The targeted area included Dolores Street to the east, 30th Street to the south, and Sanchez and Noe streets to the west. Police corralled the suspect, David Llamas, age and address unknown, after his last smashup at the intersection of Church and Clipper.

Consuelo Bourdon of Clipper Street witnessed the final crash and apprehension of the suspect.

"He tried to make a U-turn in the middle of Church Street, and he didn't quite make it," she said, gesturing toward the crumpled Ford Mustang across the street.

When Llamas refused to open his door for police, officers broke his driver's-side window and forcibly removed him from the vehicle. The driver's agitated state became apparent to onlookers at this point as he violently resisted the arresting officers and pleaded, "Don't rape me, don't rape me." They advised him to calm down, assuring him that they were San Francisco police officers and that he was in no danger.

Llamas was restrained and taken into

custody. At press time, police said the case remained under investigation and that they were still compiling damage estimates and clues to the driver's motives.

Much of the credit for the end to this dangerous situation should be handed to concerned citizens. Between 12:13 and 12:20 a.m., Noe Valley residents flooded the 911 switchboard with frantic calls to police.

Steven Kolesar, a 27th Street resident, became so alarmed he leaped into his own car and pursued the suspect — while describing the chase to emergency operators on his cellular phone. Kolesar was still on the suspect's tail at the final crash and arrest.

Shaken badly by his own act of bravery, Kolesar recalled details of the chase.

"I followed him up 27th, down Sanchez, then across Clipper," he said. "I wasn't going to let him get away with this." He honked his horn as he went, alerting neighbors and motorists that the pickup was trouble.

Though Kolesar's heroism is to be commended, the San Francisco Police Department advises against confronting or pursuing suspects.

"I would never recommend chasing a suspect," said Sgt. John Haggett of the SFPD's Hit and Run Detail. "You never know who you're dealing with, whether he's drunk, on drugs, or armed."

"Get the license plate number, a detailed description of the car and driver,

and call us immediately," Haggett said.

That's what many residents were trying to do. Said one 27th Street resident who preferred not to give her name, "I called 911 twice and listened through three recordings before anyone came on the line. We were listening to this maniac squeal around the neighborhood for a good 20 minutes before we saw signs of police. It was scary," she added. "It's a wonder no one was seriously hurt."

But she and other neighbors were relieved to learn the man had been caught.

The morning after the incident, Kolesar, in an e-mail message to the *Voice*, expressed gratitude and respect for the officers who subdued the suspect.

"The man was screaming and flailing his arms and legs. It was a struggle for the officers to get him under control," wrote Kolesar. "I was close enough to see and feel the combination of fear and adrenaline present in each of the officers. I am in awe of how officers, when faced with such a dangerous situation, were able to perform so coolly."

Residents who woke up Aug. 22 and found their cars dented might be victims in this case. To report a hit and run, call Mission Station if you live north of Cesar Chavez (558-5400), or Ingleside Police if you live to the south (553-1603). □



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Church Food Program OK, But Thrift Store Is Out

By Tim Kelley

Holiness Temple in Christ won one and lost one this summer, in a dispute with neighbors over the church's food and thrift store operations at 28th and Church streets.

At a morning hearing July 9, the Police Department revoked the church's second-hand store permit. But later that day, the Board of Permit Appeals allowed a free food giveaway to continue on Saturdays, noon to 2 p.m., at the storefront church.

A small group of about six neighbors made the same accusations at both proceedings. Valley Street resident Darlene Crisp charged that church pastor Joesiah Bell had refused to remove a pay phone, located in front of the church, which she claimed was used for gang activities and drug deals. Getting rid of the phone had been one of the conditions when the church won its thrift store permit last January.

Crisp and the neighbors also com-

plained that church officials had left cardboard boxes and debris in the doorway and on the sidewalk after food distribution hours and that exits had been blocked in an unsafe manner. They also alleged that church signs failed to conform with city regulations.

Reverend Bell responded that racism was the real motivation behind the charges. He accused his accusers of trying to drive the historically African-American congregation out of Noe Valley with a campaign of petty complaints. The church, he said, could not remove the pay phone because of a long-term contract with the phone company. As for the rubbish, he insisted it was left for only short periods of time before pickup.

The Fire Department, as well as building inspectors and the Public Health Department. Bell said, had repeatedly inspected the church premises—all at the behest of this same group of neighbors.

The Police Department's decision to revoke the thrift store permit hinged on failure to remove the pay phone, which Bell admits he did originally agree to. However, one informed Police Department source reports that such a condition is "unheard of" for a secondhand permit. Normally, the source says, police look only at the possibility of the store being used to fence stolen goods.

Over at the Board of Permit Appeals,

the neighbors were asking the city to undo a March decision by the Planning Department. Planning had found that food distribution was a "permitted accessory use" to the "principal permitted use" of a church—in effect, that no special permit was needed for the church to conduct its food program.

At the July hearing, the Appeals Board again sided with the church. It ruled unanimously that it had no grounds upon which to reverse the earlier decision. Appeals Board president Carole Cullum said the neighbors' points were "totally irrelevant to the issue at hand."

Several board members also commented on the obvious ill feeling shown during testimony. Cullum suggested that the two parties seek mediation, but noted she couldn't require it. Crisp refused her suggestion, saying, "That wouldn't resolve anything. We need some enforcement."

Since the hearings, Holiness Temple has stopped its thrift store operations and taken out a permit for stucco repairs. In late August, the church repainted the building a bright cornflower blue.

But the small Pentecostal congregation remains disturbed about the attitude of some members of the community. "Every business around here has things on the sidewalk," says Pastor Bell. "But with us it's, 'Negro, get out. We don't want you doing business in Noe Valley.'"

Still, he says, "The best thing is to put it behind us." The weekly handouts of groceries supplied by the San Francisco Food Bank will continue, he adds. And he has set the pay phone so that it will not accept incoming calls.

As for the complaining neighbors, none has been willing to comment on the record. However, one says that both sides, now that they have fought to a draw, appear to be ready to let the dispute drop.

In August, both the Fire and Building departments reported that they had no outstanding complaints or violations in their files related to the church. And Jack Breslin, assistant director of health inspectors for the Department of Public Health, gave what is possibly the last word on this long-simmering feud.

He reaffirmed that no permit would be required for the food program, since it involved only nonperishable goods and periodic distribution.

"Frankly," Breslin said, "we have more important things to worry about." □



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Noe Valley Unplugged

Java 'n' More
Hosts an Open
Mike Night

By Erin O'Briant

"Finally! Something to do at night in Noe Valley!" exclaimed one Noe Valley resident. She was referring to the new Thursday-night open mikes at Java 'n' More on the corner of Church and Clipper. The performance showcase for musicians and poets got started in July.

For several months, Jeff Troiano, a folk guitarist and songwriter (and *Noe Valley Voice* contributor), had been looking for a place to play and sing that was within walking of his home on Church Street. But the closest venue he'd found was a coffeehouse in the Richmond District.

"I got tired of taking two buses to get back home at midnight," he said, "so I convinced the owners at Java 'n' More to start an open mike night in Noe Valley. We have so many musicians and poets in this neighborhood, the response has been tremendous."

Troiano said that for now the event was acoustic-only—meaning no electric guitars or synthesizers. "There's been a long tradition of acoustic music in Noe Valley," he said, "which has trailed off over the years. So a lot of local musicians are really excited about this."

Players and listeners from other San Francisco neighborhoods are jazzed, too. During July and August, performers came from all over the city. "I'd say the crowd is about a 50-50 mix, half from Noe Valley, half from outside the area," Troiano said. "People see us listed in the *Bay Guardian* and come out to play."



Musician Paul Kemnitz played Dobro and kazoo at one of this summer's weekly open mikes at Java 'n' More coffeehouse on Church Street.
Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

So far, the crowd has been comprised mostly of the musicians and poets themselves. Audiences sometimes steer clear of open mikes, assuming that the bulk of the artists are amateurs. But the entertainers at Java 'n' More include a surprising number of skilled, experienced musicians and poets.

"Generally, people do their own original music, but often the musicians do covers of classics, songs by Bob Dylan or Neil Young. But they always do it in their own way," said Troiano.

Though some entertainers may bring along CDs or tapes for sale, Troiano emphasized that "money is not what this is about. This is about trying to work out the songs in a supportive environment," he continued. "Lots of these musicians show up with their CDs, and that's a lot of fun. But we don't pass the hat."

On a recent Thursday evening, a lively gathering of about 25 filled the seats. The

big open space at the front of the coffeehouse provided plenty of room for everyone and their musical instruments, while the high ceilings made for good acoustics. One by one, members of the audience mounted the "stage" for their 15 minutes to play, sing, or read. Listeners sat clustered around the small wooden tables, while others sipped coffee quietly in the back of the shop. The atmosphere was homey and comfortable.

"Rick the bad poet brought me here," said a young bard named Publius, pointing to a guy at the next table. "I'm over from the Richmond District—I've been coming here about three or four weeks."

Longtime Noe Valley residents Rich Alpert and David Perry kept the audience clapping with their guitar-harmonica-tambourine rendition of *Corina, Corina*. A traveling musician from New Orleans, Paul Kemnitz, singlehandedly sang, played a Dobro (a guitar that looks like a

huge silver violin), and blew a kazoo.

As the evening wore on, locals wandered in and out. Some listened from the bus stop outside. "It's a typical, eclectic night," said Troiano.

Through all the hubbub, Java 'n' More co-owner Tom Madanat presided calmly over the snacks and cappuccino machine. "I had been looking for someone to take charge of an open mike night here," said Madanat, who owns the coffeeshop along with his brother, Don Madanat.

So it was a pleasant coincidence when Troiano offered to set up the show. "I love music, but I'm not a professional," Madanat explained. "From the first night it was good," he added. "People are getting to know the place more and more."

Though the clapping, singing, guitar strumming, and harmonica blowing can get loud at times, Madanat said the neighbors didn't seem to mind. "We close the doors, and since there's no sound system [to amplify the music] we haven't had any complaints."

The Java 'n' More Open Mic Night starts every Thursday at 7 p.m., with a signup at 6:30 for participants. "Everyone is welcome," said Troiano. For more information, call him at 282-2216. □



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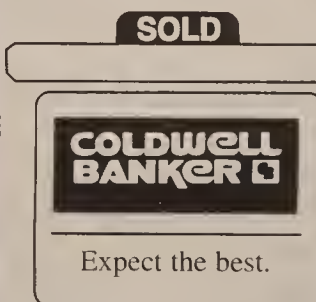
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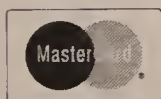
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SHORT TAKES

A Friendly Picnic in the Park

You can find out what's up in the neighborhood by attending the annual Friends of Noe Valley picnic at Douglass Playground at noon on Saturday, Sept. 6. The Friends will enjoy a potluck lunch, elect new officers, and oversee the planting of two trees in the park. The celebration will also mark the arrival of two new picnic tables, purchased with a grant from the Friends of Recreation and Parks.

"We hope to have the tables installed in time for the picnic," said Friends member Laure Moon. "We had none before, and the playground really needed them. It also needed some shade trees, so the Friends of Recreation and Parks threw two trees in for free."

Noe Valley residents, friends, and family are all welcome at the party, and the Friends will supply beverages and eating utensils. "People should come out because it's fun and social," said Moon. The park is located at 26th and Douglass.

Friends of Noe Valley normally meets at the Noe Valley Library on the second Thursday of the month. For more information call Cecile Lozano at 695-9502.

Hear Handel in a House

Noe Valley residents Kathy and Mark Perl have announced the fall schedule for Chattanooga Chamber Music, a series of intimate afternoon concerts held in their Victorian home at 152 Chattanooga St.

"The house has two adjoining parlor-type rooms with sliding doors between them," says Kathy Perl. "We open the doors and set up chairs all the way to the back. The acoustics are fabulous."



How to Join the Green Party: This stretch of 27th Street above Sanchez got four young olive trees during a Friends of the Urban Forest planting in August. Day Street also boasts some new saplings. If you'd like to be part of the greening of your block, call the Urban Forest rangers at 543-5000.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

A professional harpsichordist, Perl started the classical concert series last year. So far, the performances have been very successful. "A lot of people from the neighborhood are just thrilled to be able to walk to a concert," she says. "And we usually fill all the seats."

The Fall 1997 season begins on Sunday, Sept. 7, with solo harpsichordist Byron Schenkman performing works by Handel, de la Guerre, and a new piece by Ted Allen. The Streicher Trio performs a month later on Oct. 5, and features Charlene Brendler on fortepiano, Carla Moore on violin, and Elizabeth Le Guin on cello. The trio will play music by Beethoven, Boccherini, and Mozart.

Les Voix Humaines, a viola de gamba duo composed of Susie Napper and Margaret Little, will offer a concert of music from France, England, and Germany on Oct. 26. And on Dec. 7, harpsichordist host Kathy Perl will play selections from

J. S. Bach, including *The Well-Tempered Clavier II* and *French Suites*.

All performances start at 3 p.m. Seating is limited to 50. For reservations, call Kathy or Mark Perl at 641-0940. Admission is \$12, and parking, says Perl, is "not impossible."

Renters Hold Convention

"Think about it," says Kate Gordon of the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco. "If you were evicted today, could you still afford to live in your neighborhood?" Most tenants in Noe Valley would have to say no. And that's just the issue Gordon and others plan to address at the citywide Tenant Convention at Mission High School (Dolores and 16th) on Sept. 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Delegates from 10 San Francisco neighborhood conventions will gather to produce a tenant platform for 1997-98. Convention leaders hope to capitalize on the

fact that renters now make up 65 percent of San Francisco voters, and push through a city ballot measure that would give tenants more protection from evictions.

"Noe Valley is specifically affected by the rising rent problem," said Gordon. "There will be a Noe Valley delegation, and the more people who attend, the better."

For more details, call the Housing Rights Committee at 398-0527.

Best-Told Tales for Children

Former Noe Valley resident Jerry Sontag, of Mornum Time Press, is calling for submissions to a new anthology of original stories parents tell their children.

"A lot of professional writers already have something around they've written," says Sontag, "but I'm really interested in the children's stories that were told first and then written down. Those stories have a very distinctive flavor to them."

The tale could be an old standby or one you made up on the spur of the moment. "It might be anything from a ridiculous flight of fancy to a moral tale," he says.

Sontag has already received stories from several Noe Valley families, and he hopes to use a local artist for the book's illustrations. "This book will have a Bay Area flavor," he adds. "I want a diverse group of parents, including lesbian parents, and people from different backgrounds."

The deadline for stories—which should be aimed at kids ages 3 to 10 and no more than 10 double-spaced, typewritten pages—is Dec. 1. The book will also include a brief biography of each contributor.

For more information call Sontag at 434-2542. Send submissions to Mornum Time Press, 381 Bush St., Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94104.



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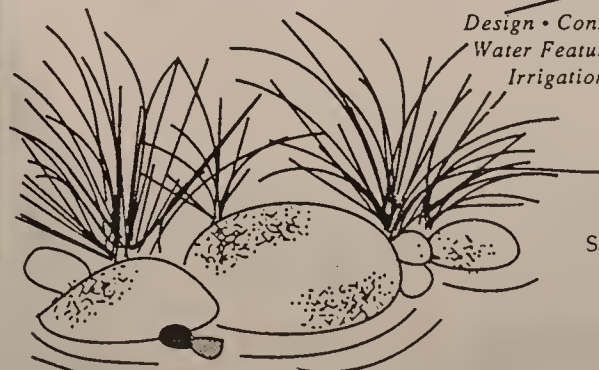
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Flapper Has 'Virtual' Fan Club in Noe Valley

By Fontaine Roberson

As Thomas Gladysz talks about Louise Brooks, his voice rises. His excitement is palpable as he relates little-known facts about the silent film star who died in 1985 at the age of 78.

"She had an incredible life," says Gladysz. "She knew Gershwin and Fitzgerald. She danced with Martha Graham. She had an affair with Chaplin." And in the two years since Gladysz created the Louise Brooks Society Web Site—a "virtual fan club" at www.pandorasbox.com—Brooks has acquired many new admirers, some from as far away as China.

From his home on Church Street,

Gladysz clicks through page after page of pictures and text. "It's the largest and most comprehensive Web site devoted to any single star," he says. "There is a chronology of her life, a picture gallery, interviews and articles from vintage film magazines, a history of the Jazz Age, a filmography, and lots more.

"My site is the world's first fan club in cyberspace," Gladysz continues. "It is different from other fan pages in that it is interactive. People send me articles, photos, Xerox of magazine covers—all kinds of stuff—from all over the world. I put these things on the site to share with everyone."

Yes, Gladysz—a bookseller by day and Webmaster by night—has found his bliss. "The Louise Brooks site will never be complete," he says. "It is something I am continually working on. When I have free time, I develop pages or do research. For me, it's not work—it's fun."

Louise Brooks appeared in 24 films between the years 1925 and 1938. She is best remembered for her roles in two classic German films, *Pandora's Box* (1929) and *Diary of a Lost Girl* (1929). After her



Louise Brooks fan club founder Thomas Gladysz will display his collection of cherished photos and memorabilia at What's for Dessert during September. But you can also view Brooks ephemera on www.pandorasbox.com. Photo by Beverly Thorp

THE CANARY MURDER CASE



Louise Brooks starred with William Powell in the 1929 "Philo Vance" detective thriller *The Canary Murder Case*. Photo courtesy Thomas Gladysz

acting career was over, she turned to writing about the movies and became a well-respected film critic. Almost a quarter of the films she made are now lost, but *Pandora's Box* and *Diary of a Lost Girl* are both available on video.

In Gladysz's view, it is Brooks's beauty, her trademark "bob" hairstyle, and her fierce independence that have made her a symbol of the 1920s flapper era and somewhat of a 20th-century icon.

"It's ironic that Brooks is probably least remembered for what she actually was—a gifted actress. At a time when movie acting tended to be melodramatic, Brooks was subtle, erotic, and natural. She was ahead of her time," he says.

"After she left Hollywood to do her best work in Europe, she was blacklisted by the Hollywood studios for refusing work here," Gladysz adds. "When she returned to the U.S., the studios started the rumor that she had a bad voice that would not do well in 'talkies.' That wasn't true, and she did eventually begin to get small parts from directors who liked her work."

Gladysz saw his first Brooks film in 1991, when he happened upon *Pandora's Box* at Video Wave on Castro Street. "I rented it on a Friday night, then went to



This famous portrait of actress Louise Brooks was taken by Hollywood photographer E. R. Richee in 1928.

bed and got up and watched it again on Saturday morning. I'd never done that—watched a movie over and over again. I was totally wowed by her. Louise Brooks just sort of has these extra-cinematic qualities that people are transfixed by."

He looked for a fan club to join but was disappointed to learn that none existed. He decided to form his own club, and

Continued on Next Page

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Two Thumbs Up for Web Site Tribute to Silent Film Star

Continued from Previous Page

soon realized that the best way to reach the greatest number of people was on the Internet. He taught himself HTML (the computer language used to create Web pages), and in a few weeks created a site with all the information he had collected on Louise Brooks, including pictures and reprints from old magazine articles.

When the Louise Brooks Society went online in August 1995, there were only a few general sites devoted to silent and early film, along with a half-dozen sites on stars like Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglass Fairbanks Sr. Since then, many more celebrity sites have sprung up. As the silent film buff community on the Web has grown, the sites have formed links to create a network of movie star memorabilia.

Gladysz's own Web site is the place to see rare snapshots of Brooks and even oddities such as the 1920s *San Francisco Chronicle* ad featuring Brooks modeling an ankle watch—a flapper fad. He has even received mail from two of Brooks' relatives, who gave him a bit of family history and some photos of Brooks.

The visitors to the site—Gladysz says he's had about 36,000 hits so far—run the gamut "from a film director in Greece and a professor in Peru to people from the Middle East and folks in Canada and Belgium and Finland. There's even a fan in Singapore, who had never seen Brooks' movies," Gladysz says. "He had only seen a few postcards and read about her" before logging on to the site.

More than 350 people from 25 countries have become full-fledged members of the Louise Brooks Society.

But Gladysz's Web page is not just a chat room for Louise Brooks' fans. Several university professors have used it as a reference in their film classes, including one of the most famous film professors of all—film critic Roger Ebert, who teaches at the University of Chicago.

"I met Ebert when he was in town on a recent book tour, and I was happy to learn that not only is he a Brooks fan, but he's used my site to get background information for the class he teaches," says Gladysz.



Louise Brooks' "bob" hairstyle was all the rage during the Roaring Twenties.

Photos courtesy of Thomas Gladysz

Next year should bring even more Brooks admirers since Turner Classic Movies will broadcast several of her films in early 1998. The cable channel will also debut a documentary on the actress.

Meanwhile, Gladysz has organized an exhibit called "Louise Brooks: Portraits and Memorabilia," featuring 1920s photos, movie magazines, sheet music, cigarette cards, and other ephemera from his collection. The exhibit will be on display

during September at What's for Dessert, the corner cafe at Church and 27th streets.

Gladysz has also parlayed the skills he learned developing the Brooks Web page into creating Internet sites for the Booksmith (his day job) and for the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association.

But Louise Brooks is still his first love.

"I formed the Louise Brooks Society as a way of sharing my enthusiasm with oth-

ers. And this has happened in ways I could never have expected," says Gladysz. "Making a connection with other people, communicating about shared interests—these things are what a virtual fan club is all about."

To check out Louise Brooks online, go to <http://www.pandorasbox.com>. For a live, close-up view of Brooks memorabilia, stop by What's for Dessert, 1497 Church St., Tuesdays through Sundays Sept. 2–30.



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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SEPT. 1-28: Free SHAKESPEARE in the Park performs *Much Ado About Nothing* Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day. 1:30 pm. Just west of the Conservatory of Flowers. 422-2221.

SEPT. 1-28: An EXHIBIT of portraits and memorabilia featuring 1920s film star Louise Brooks will be on display Tues.-Sun. in September at What's for Dessert, 1497 Church St. Call Thomas Gladysz for info, 695-9477.

SEPT. 2: Dr. Betty Carmack leads a free PET LOSS support group for grieving pet owners at the SPCA. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

SEPT. 2, 9, 16 & 30: The Noe Valley Library offers a STORY TIME for preschoolers 3-5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 647-3753.

SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: JAZZ DANCE in the Valley features ongoing classes and new moves each month. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call Lauren at 282-2782.

SEPT. 3: The 30th Street Senior Center's BAZAAR offers baked goods, knitting, weaving, and original art greeting cards for sale. 10 am-2 pm. 225 30th St. 550-2210.

SEPT. 3: Celebrate HISPANIC heritage month at a community event at KQED featuring live music and folk art performances. 6-8:30 pm. 2601 Mariposa St. RSVP to 553-2382.

SEPT. 3: "Introduction to HIV TREATMENT Options" is the topic of Project Inform's introductory Town Meeting. 6:30-8 pm. 1965 Market St., Suite 220 (enter off Duboce) 558-8669.

SEPT. 3: DOUG DOWD delivers his final lecture, "Blues for America." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents begin at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 3-OCT. 4: "Making Marks" is an exhibition of work by ARTISTS who teach in the city's elementary and secondary schools. Wed.-Sat., noon-5 pm; reception Sept. 5, 6-8 pm. Space 743, 743 Harrison St. 777-9080.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Acoustic musicians, rappers, and poets are invited to sign up for the Thursday-night OPEN MIC at Java 'n' More coffeehouse. 7 pm (6:30 signup). Church & Clipper. For info, call Jeff: 282-2216.

SEPT. 5: Metropolitan Community Church hosts a PANEL on the Guatemalan people's return from exile following the ceasefire of December 1996. In the chapel, 150 Eureka St. 552-2199.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26: 30th Street Senior Services offers ongoing Latin and BALLROOM DANCING instruction on Fridays from noon-1:30 pm. For info, call Jorge Santis at 550-2221.

SEPT. 6: The annual Friends of Noe Valley PICNIC features election of officers, a tree planting, and a potluck lunch. Noon. Douglass Playground, 26th & Douglass. 824-0878.

SEPT. 6: Theater Artaud's ninth annual PERFORMANCE MARATHON is a 12-hour showcase of over 100 local artists and companies. Noon-midnight. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

SEPT. 6: Charles Dabo leads a class in making FANTASY ANIMALS from cardboard tubing and paint. 1 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way 554-9600.

SEPT. 6: St. Paul's hosts a CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION and "walk down memory lane" to commemorate the closing of the old elementary school. In the auditorium and school, following 5 pm mass. Church & 29th. 648-7538.

SEPT. 6: The International Feminist Brigade's VIVA CUBA FIESTA is a bon voyage party for the Havana-bound Brigadistas, with music and buffet. 7:30 pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

SEPT. 6 & 7: Help the S.F. GIANTS strike out hunger by bringing non-perishable food donations to the Giants/Astros games. Call the S.F. Food Bank for information, 282-1900.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Precita Eyes Mural Center offers a WALKING TOUR of Mission District murals. Meet 11 am at Cafe Venice, 3325 24th St. 285-2287.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Yang-style TAI CHI CHUAN classes are held at the Mission YMCA, 9:45-11:45 am. 4080 Mission St. 586-6900.

SEPT. 7: The Adventist HEALTHVAN offers blood pressure and cholesterol screening at Mission and 24th St. 10 am-4 pm. 775-2570.

SEPT. 7: Chattanooga CHAMBER MUSIC features the music of Handel, de la Guerre, and Ted Allen, performed by harpsichordist Byron Schenkman. 3 pm. 152 Chattanooga St. Reservations: call Kathy or Mark Perl at 641-0904.

SEPT. 8-29: Parents can learn INFANT MASSAGE on Mondays, 2-3:30 pm. Natural Resources, 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

SEPT. 9: Visiting Nurses & Hospice seeks VOLUNTEERS to care for people with life-threatening illnesses. Call Pat at 750-6800, ext. 21701.

SEPT. 9: POETS Ron Denicola and Jimmy Lyons read from their work at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

SEPT. 10: ALVARADO SCHOOL Principal Phyllis Matsuno delivers a "state of the school address" at a potluck dinner for parents of preschoolers. 6-8:30 pm. 625 Douglass St. 695-5695.

SEPT. 10-21: The 20th Bay Area PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL features new works by six authors. Wed.-Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7 pm; Sat., 2 pm. Magic Theater, Fort Mason, Building D. 263-3986.

SEPT. 10-OCT. 15: "Women Exploring DESIGN" features the graphic work of 10 women at the Student Center Art Gallery. Reception Sept. 10, 5-7 pm. SFSU, Cesar Chavez Student Center, 1650 Holloway Ave. 338-2580.

SEPT. 11-13: Community Music Center's FALL REGISTRATION for new students takes place Thurs. and Fri., 3-7 pm, and Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

SEPT. 11-14: The 33rd annual Friends of the Library BOOK SALE offers a silent auction of rare books, plus a dollar-or-less bargain sale on Sunday. Thurs., 4-8 pm; Fri.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. Ft. Mason Center. 557-4257.

SEPT. 11, 18 & 25: The SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING season opens with a party with live fiddle music on Sept. 11, and the first two classes the following Thursdays. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

SEPT. 11-OCT. 11: Multicharacter COMEDY *Cars, Cows and Caffeine* opens the 20th season of Theatre Rhinoceros. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

SEPT. 12: High schoolers are invited to the Randall Museum's CINE/CLUB screening and discussion of Terrence Malick's 1973 film *Badlands*. 7 pm. 199 Museum Way, 864-2026.

SEPT. 12-14: Bay Area CHOREOGRAPHERS showcase their work in "Local 8," at the Dancers' Group Studio Theater. 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

SEPT. 12-18: Carlos Saura's DANCE FILM *Flamenco* screens at the Castro Theater. Call 621-6120 for times.

SEPT. 13: UCSF Women's Health sponsors a BABY FAIR, including birth center tours, health and product info, yoga and massage, clowns and face painting, and a maternity fashion show. 9 am-3 pm. Saunders Court, 513 Parnassus St. 476-0668.

SEPT. 13: San Franciscans for Tax Justice sponsors a PUBLIC FORUM on the creation of living-wage jobs. 9:30-11 am. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 648-1867.

SEPT. 13: The ISADORA DUNCAN Dance Center offers an open house with demonstrations and lectures. 10 am-1 pm. 3435 Cesar Chavez St. 587-0730.

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Irwin Memorial Blood Centers

SEPT. 13: At the citywide TENANT CONVENTION, delegates from 10 neighborhoods address renters' concerns. 11 am–4 pm. Mission High School, Dolores at 18th St. 398-0527.

SEPT. 13: JULIE SMITH signs the latest Skip Langdon mystery, *Crescent City Kill*. 2–3 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

SEPT. 13: DANU performs traditional music from Ireland. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 13 & 14: Train for grassroots AIDS ADVOCACY at an S.F. AIDS Foundation interactive workshop. Free with preregistration, 487-3034.

SEPT. 14: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers a bicycle MURAL TOUR the second Sunday of each month. Meet 11 am at 348 Precita Ave. 285-2287.

SEPT. 14: Star Classics' TWILIGHT CABARET features an all-Gershwin program performed by Spider Saloff. 5 pm. Star Classics Recital Hall, 425 Hayes St. 552-1110.

SEPT. 14: Noe Valley Ministry's TAIZE (formerly "Cantate") service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

SEPT. 17: PRENATAL YOGA helps prepare the body for childbirth. Six Wednesdays, 6–7:30 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. Call 821-1117 to register.

SEPT. 17: The MISSION ART CRAWL features art exhibits and performance at many venues throughout the neighborhood. 6–10 pm. Call 626-3311 to receive a map and events listing.

SEPT. 17: Bill Brent discusses how to make a ZINE of your own. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 17–30: Andrew De Witt shows functional and SCULPTURAL stone-ware, reliefs, and wood constructions at Ruby's Clay Studio. Reception Sept. 19, 6:30–9:30 pm. 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

SEPT. 18: The San Francisco MIME TROUPE performs an antismoking classic, "The Adventures of Revenger Rat." 4 pm. New College, Valencia & 19th. 285-1717.

SEPT. 18: DORDTHY ALLISON reads from her work at the Poetry Center at S.F. State. 5 pm. Humanities 133. 338-2227.

SEPT. 19: S.F. Mystery Bookstore hosts a BOOK SIGNING by Valerie Wilson Wesley, author of *No Hiding Place*. 5–6 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

SEPT. 20: Natural Resources offers a father and baby SUPPORT GRUPO from 11 am–12:30 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

SEPT. 20: Make Japanese PAPER DOLLS with the Washi Ninyo technique. 1 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way 554-9600.

SEPT. 20: Lambda award winner KATHERINE FORREST signs the fifth Kate Delafield novel, *Apparition Alley*. 3–4 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

SEPT. 20: Avant-garde JAZZ PIANIST Myra Melford gives her only Bay Area concert, while in California to perform at the Monterey Jazz Festival. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



Chicago pianist Myra Melford will play at the Monterey Jazz Festival, as well as at the Noe Valley Music Series Sept. 20. Photo by WOWE.

SEPT. 21: Integral Yoga offers a one-day SILENT RETREAT with meditations, hatha yoga session, and vegetarian lunch. 9 am–5 pm. 770 Dolores St. Register five days prior, 821-1117.

SEPT. 21: S.F. Frontrunners hosts its 16th annual LESBICAY SPORTS DAY and picnic on Angel Island. 978-2429.

SEPT. 21: The Exploratorium hosts RDBDT RACES and "Robot Sumo Wrestling." Warmups start at 11 am; races 1–4 pm. 563-7337.

SEPT. 21: The City Lights Ball hosts a BALLROOM DANCE competition and showcase at the Metronome Ballroom. 10 am–4 pm, and 6 pm–midnight. 1830 17th St. 681-9083.

SEPT. 21: The SPCA's seven-mile Hill-stride and PET WALK benefit begins at 10:30 am. Meet at Gas House Cove near Ft. Mason. For info: 759-2690.

SEPT. 21: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center three-hour citywide MURAL TOUR on the Mexican bus, "El Volado," begins at 1 pm. 348 Precita Ave. Call 285-2287 for required reservations.

SEPT. 23: FILMS for preschoolers will be screened at 10 and 11 am. The Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 23: K. Kaufman discusses *The Abortion Resource Handbook* at 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 25: Dr. Carla D'Antonio discusses invasive and damaging WILDLAND PLANTS of California. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way 554-9600.

SEPT. 27: The Noe Valley Music Series hosts an appearance by KEITH TERRY and Crosspulse. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 27–28: St. Philip Parish holds its annual two-day FESTIVAL featuring games, food, and entertainment. All proceeds benefit St. Philip School. Diamond & 24th. 824-8467.

SEPT. 28: The Wind in the Willows annual ALUMNI PICNIC and potluck begins at noon in Douglass Park. Call the school for info, 285-5510.

SEPT. 30: BEATZINE POETS Lonnie Hull Dupont, Ellen Elliott, Noni Howard, and Mary Rudge read at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Deadlines

Are you holding a witches coven this Halloween? Or bobbing for apples at your favorite haunt? The *Noe Valley Voice* would like to notify (and warn!) your neighbors. Please send your news and calendar items to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail us at jaxvoice@aol.com. Don't try to contact us through a seance, however.

The October 1997 *Voice* will be distributed throughout the bogs of Noe Valley starting Wednesday, Oct. 1. The deadline for items is **Sept. 15**.

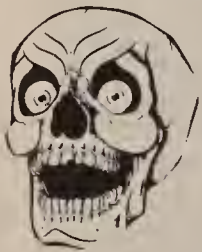
If you have calendar questions or changes, call Karol "Morticia" Barske at 285-6347. Note: We try to include as many items as possible, but Noe Valley happenings get first dibs. *Boo!*



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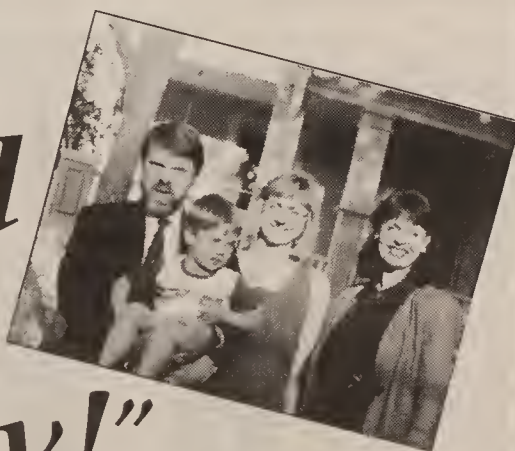
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Ain't It Awful, the Heat?

By Diane McDaniel

After one 95-degree day and night when the heat didn't let up once and the temperature of the new day was rising already at 9 a.m., I was in the back yard watering my plants for the first time of the year.

Steve, my neighbor, and I greeted each other wearily over our back fences. All we could muster the strength to talk about was the weather.

"I've had enough of summer now," he said. "I'm ready for the fog to come back."

San Franciscans take a kind of perverse pride in the crazy weather here, where the coldest time of the year may well be in the middle of summer. When I tell people that I live in Noe Valley, they always coo appreciatively and say somewhat enviously, "It's sunny in that part of town."

But, in fact, real San Franciscans don't want too much sun. Too much sun is what they have down in Los Angeles, the place San Franciscans most want to dis-identify themselves with.

The weather here is, of course, legendary. When I first moved to San Francisco, which was during the fall, I bought a wool car coat that I wore incessantly from the moment I bought it

until the late spring. Then I figured I'd better pick up a light cotton jacket for the summer.

I never bought the cotton jacket because after that first warmth of spring when I was able to leave the house without a coat, the weather just got colder. In the middle of the summer, wearing that wool coat and shivering in the doorway of a Hayes Valley trattoria, I was reminded of that famous line attributed to Mark Twain: "The coldest winter I ever spent was summer in San Francisco."

When I talk to out-of-towners, I invariably repeat the quip and explain how the fog that blankets the city in summer is due to the heat in the Central Valley sucking in the moisture from the Pacific Ocean above our hilly topography. This meteorological fact is something I heard early in my San Francisco tenure, and speaking it with authority legitimizes me as a San Franciscan.

A few days of warm weather is fun. One afternoon this past June, I drove past Dolores Park and saw a swarm of practically naked bodies sprawled across the lawn, heads and feet pointing in every direction. Legs that had been tastefully hidden under pants and skirts for months looked pale and grayish in the bright sunlight. Although it is true that San Francisco is the only place I've been where you will see, on the same street corner, one person bundled in a winter coat, gloves, and hat, and another wearing shorts, tank top, and sandals, exposed legs are not a common sight in this city. Exposed arms with tattoos, yes. Exposed almost anything else, yes. But exposed legs, no.

After a "heat wave" lasting one or two days, most San Franciscans have had enough. We count on the cool weather to sweep in by sundown. If the weather were to become permanently

stuck on hot, like it often does to the south and even a little bit north of here, our entire image as a city—and as a collection of distinct neighborhoods—would be shot.

What would happen if tourists who rode the cable cars down to Fisherman's Wharf in the morning were no longer caught in the afternoon fog and wind and forced to buy sweatshirts for the entire family emblazoned with the words "San Francisco Yacht Club"? What would happen to the sales of chic black jeans, knit sweaters, thick socks, heavy work boots—the things we wear almost every day of the year? As I made my way around town during a week of hot, humid weather last month, I saw several women wearing brightly colored short dresses and sandals, and I thought, Hey, when did they get those?

Yes, the city has an unmistakable geography and spectacular views that nobody could ever mistake for any other place. But a San Francisco without the fog would drastically alter the spirit of the city. It'd be a huge blow to our collective psyche.

Let's hope the weather gets better soon. □

Diane McDaniel, an editor for Prentice-Hall, moved to San Francisco from Los Angeles in 1995. She lived on Sanchez Street until this summer, when her career called her back to L.A. "I miss the neighborhood aspect of San Francisco. We don't have that in L.A. at all," she says. "And I really do miss the weather."

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your essays, opinion pieces, and other reflections on neighborhood people, places, and pastimes. Mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 800 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. Thank you.



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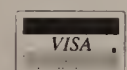
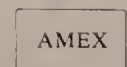
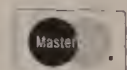
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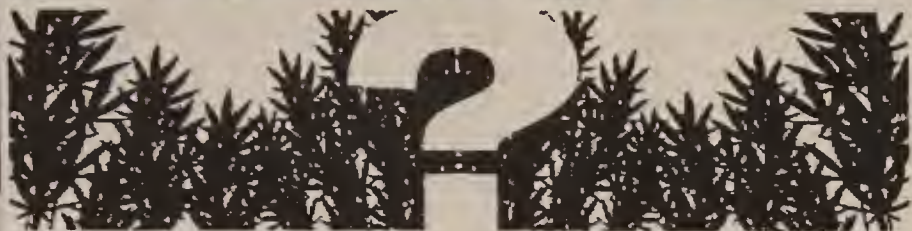
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SHORT TAKES

Art Crawl in the Mission

Noe Valleyans who stroll a few blocks down 24th Street on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6 to 10 p.m., can take part in the Mission Art Crawl—a showcase of arts and cultural events in the Mission District.

Numerous art galleries and businesses, including Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, Galeria de la Raza, Back to the Picture, Intersection for the Arts, Southern Exposure, ArtBeat Gallery, the Marsh, Mission Cultural Center, and “4 walls,” will present some of San Francisco’s most exciting art exhibits, performances, and artists’ receptions.

Mission Art Crawl is a collaboration of hundreds of arts and cultural organizations. Call Intersection for the Arts, 626-2787, for a full list of events and locations.

Family Grief Counseling

Beginning Sept. 22, Hospice by the Bay will offer a free 10-week family bereavement program for anyone who has experienced a loss through death in the past two years.

The program has separate sessions for children, teenagers, and adults. “With adults it’s a straightforward support group, with discussion and videos,” says coordinator Anna O’Brien. “The teenage group is similar, but with some art, storytelling, and music,” she adds. The children’s group focuses more heavily on expression through art and stories.

“What we see when people leave here is less fear, less of a feeling of isolation, and more a feeling of being normal,” O’Brien says. “It’s important not to feel scared, not to feel that everyone will think

you’re crazy if you’re going to this bereavement group.”

Sessions run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Hospice by the Bay’s office, 1540 Market St., near Van Ness Avenue. For further details call 626-5900.

Remember the One About...

Over age 60? Have a good story to tell? If so, you might want to enter the Mission YMCA’s Legacies Writing Contest. The contest, now in its third year, was created to honor and preserve the stories of elder Americans.

Contestants are encouraged to tell true stories about an important event in their lives—about grappling with and transcending a low point, turning point, or crisis. Or they might just pass on a humorous anecdote to future generations.

Winners of the local contest will be notified in December, then entered in the National Legacies Contest, where they’ll be eligible for \$15,000 in cash prizes. In the last competition, two local contestants became national winners.

Entries must be typed, double-spaced, on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, and should not exceed 1,500 words. The cover page must include the author’s name, address, phone numbers.

Send your story by Sept. 30 to Legacies Contest, Mission YMCA, 4080 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112.

To find out more, contact Gloria Garcia at 452-7569.

Seniors Cut a Rug

If you’re a senior who loves to kick up your heels, head on over to 30th Street Senior Services and sign up for some free dance lessons. Participants can choose from ongoing classes in Western line dance, ballroom dance, folk, and tango. On Friday afternoons, there’s a free dance featuring Latin music.

“People here, especially those in the Western line dance class, have performed

at the Gray Cabaret, which is a benefit performance. So has the folk dance group,” notes Jorge Santis, coordinator at the senior center.

Some of the dancers are quite skilled, but beginners are welcome. For a class schedule, call 550-2221. Or come by and register at 30th Street Senior Services, located at 225 30th St. near Dolores Street.

Supes Trim Down Clipper Street Complex

By Loren J. Bialik

In July, the Board of Supervisors made a concession to the neighbors and scaled down part of a large housing development set to go up on Clipper Street between Douglass and Hoffman. Against the wishes of the city’s Planning Commission, the board voted to reduce four of six duplexes facing 25th Street from three to two stories over a garage.

“This was the first time the board has modified a decision by this Planning Commission,” said Ernie Beffel, attorney for the neighbors. “Everybody is pleased with the compromise.”

As reported in the July/August *Voice*, many residents had been distressed in May when the Planning Commission approved developer Raymond Wong’s plans

to divide six lots into 13, and to erect an imposing 22-unit housing complex on the now-vacant site.

Members of the Friends of Noe Valley immediately filed an appeal. Now they’re savoring the victory. “The neighbors pulled together to use the political process,” said Beffel. “We showed the board how they could still meet their housing priorities and reach a compromise between the developer and the neighbors.”

But all is not quiet atop Clipper Street hill. Some neighbors, like Barbara Martin, still have a bad taste in their mouth. For 16 years Martin has fought the development of these lots, fearing it would dwarf her Hoffman Avenue home.

Now Martin plans to take her case to the Department of Public Works. “There are serious questions regarding the soil studies that have been done,” she says. “That land is filled-in land from the 1940s, when the city widened Clipper Street and tore out part of the hill.”

Meanwhile, a new controversy has sprung up, over another building in the area. The owner of 4521 25th St., just west of the Clipper Street development, wants to tear down the edifice and raise a new two-unit building. The old structure is 24 feet high and has one story over a garage. The new building would be 35 feet high with three stories over a garage.

The neighbors have already asked the owner to trim down the size. “We’re looking forward to seeing revised and more modest plans soon,” said Beffel. □

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The Voice And World Literacy

They're back—tanned, rested, and well read, having used the summer to ponder their Voices in far-away places. And they've inundated our office with their reports and photos. We thank them for their correspondence and welcome them back home.



Cindy Piva, the hard-working manicurist from Noe Valley, changed into Cindy Piva the relaxed stroller on the Champs Élysées when she traveled to France. But she kept her nose pointed toward the news of Noe.



Though Sherri and Jim Miller moved to Portland, Oregon, several years ago, they left their hearts in Noe Valley. And they usually think of us while traveling—this time while on a business trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Jim posed for this shot in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, court offices erected in 1894.



Charlie Haims wins the prize for altitude with this self-portrait taken near the Dalai Lama's official residence in Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. After the vacation, he left his home on Dolores Street to attend graduate school in New Haven, Connecticut, but vows to keep up with Noe Valley by logging on to the Voice Web page.

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Vik Chaudhary and Jennifer Murphy traveled to the remote kingdom of Jaisalmer in the northwestern region of Rajasthan in India, where camels are allegedly used to smuggle opium and gold across the border to Pakistan. They report that the camel hardly sniffed at the *Voice* articles on Madonna's baby's dad and medicinal marijuana and that the camel keeper was more interested in their camera. But Jennifer and Vik couldn't resist poring over the hometown news.



Dr. Gary Pack recently returned to Noe Valley from a six-month trip to Central and South America, where he studied medicinal herbs. He met up with his sister and niece, Nola and Amy Klamburg of Washington, D.C., at the Plaza Murillo in La Paz, Bolivia.

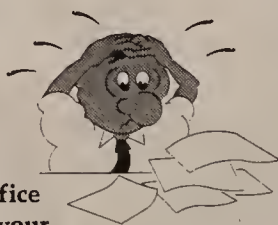


A corporate office building in San Diego is not the most exotic of our readers' destinations, but Noe Valley residents Angela Buonaugurio and Maryjane Gallagher ventured there for two weeks of specialized training after purchasing a Mail Boxes Etc. franchise. On their way to the airport, they grabbed a *Noe Valley Voice* to read on breaks. They'll be at their new store on Columbus Avenue near Fisherman's Wharf later this year.

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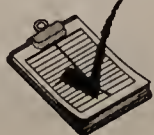
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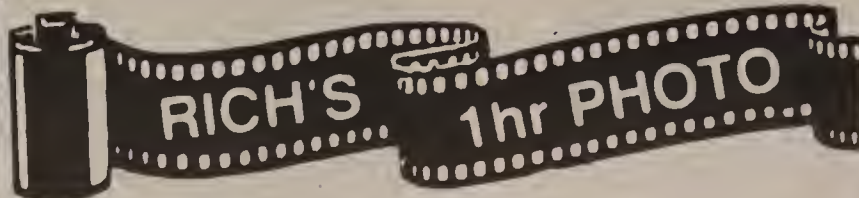
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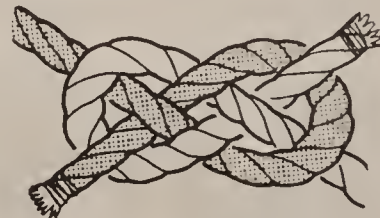
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STORE TREK

By Anne Gates

In the fast-food sweepstakes, there was only one new contestant in Downtown Noe Valley this summer: WrapWorks, a tortilla takeout that promises to serve "a sit-down meal you can eat standing up."

WrapWorks
4042 24th St.
821-9333

After two months of remodeling, WrapWorks, a trendy tortilla parlor serving "wraps," salads, and smoothies, opened July 9, in the storefront formerly occupied by Cybelle's Pizza on 24th Street near Castro. (Cybelle's moved down to 24th and Church last spring.)

The newly renovated space seats 28, at several small tables—some high off the floor—and a tall counter along one side of the shop. The decor is a mix of wood and industrial-chic steel. Cushiony window seats and stools, a pressed-tin ceiling, and a huge menu board have replaced the pizza ovens and bench seating.

The wraps ("Don't call them burritos!" says restaurant manager Julie Andrews) are similar to, um, the filled tortillas on Mexican menus, but the fillings are international and often surprising in their flavor combinations.

Andrews says the most popular wraps are "Coat & Thai Chicken," a red chile



WrapWorks manager Julie Andrews (left) and employees Dianna Ostaszewski and Martha Monjes say the adult meals on their menu are so filling, you might want to try the "Rug Wraps."

Photo by Charles Kennard

tortilla stuffed with spicy peanut chicken, spinach, black beans, ginger rice, mango salsa, and lime sour cream (\$4.95), and "Ken and Barbecue," featuring spicy barbecued chicken or steak, with garlic mashed potatoes, corn and pepper relish, black beans, chipotle slaw, and lime sour cream (\$5.75).

Also in demand is the "98% fat-free" wrap called "The Big Juan," with vegetables, salsa, and Mexican rice, for \$3.95. Other wrap fillings include Caesar salad with chicken, Japanese soba noodles, spinach cheese tortellini, and blackened fish with mango salsa and ginger rice.

A "Rug Wraps" menu for children (or adults with smaller appetites) offers kid-

friendly wraps like cheese quesadillas and grilled chicken with rice.

WrapWorks also serves custom-made salads (\$3.25), a low-fat "Asian Noodle Salad" (\$4.95), and plate versions of the wraps, for those who'd rather use a fork. Food can be ordered "for here" or to go.

Smoothies like "Screamsicle" (vanilla yogurt, orange sherbet, and orange juice) and "All That Razz" (raspberries, strawberries, banana, and raspberry juice) are available with or without "boost spikes." The spike menu includes bee pollen, multivitamins, ginseng, ginkgo biloba, and antioxidants, priced at 35 cents each. Smoothies sell for \$2.25 (for the 12-oz. size), or \$2.95 (24-oz.).

WrapWorks also has a beer and wine selection, and a fruit frap—fresh fruit over shaved ice—special of the day.

There are currently three other WrapWorks in San Francisco, on California, Union, and Castro streets (near 18th). And an Irving Street location is in the works. Chevy's, the "fresh Mex" restaurant chain, provides financial backing for WrapWorks, but Andrews and WrapWorks' Union Street manager, Joe Horacek, emphasize that the smaller outfits are run completely separately from Chevy's.

"We want to be a neighborhood place," says Horacek, "and each WrapWorks has its own character. We treat the neighborhood with respect."

WrapWorks will deliver food to businesses on 24th Street at off-peak hours or whenever there's an extra staffer to do the carryout. Eventually, Andrews would like to deliver to Noe Valley residences, too. "We've had a really good response here," she says. "It's been great!"

WrapWorks is open every day, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and an hour later on Fridays and Saturdays.

Storetrek (the column) is devoted to new shops, restaurants, and other start-up enterprises in Noe Valley. If you are the new kid on the block, we'd like to hear about it. Send your business announcement to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



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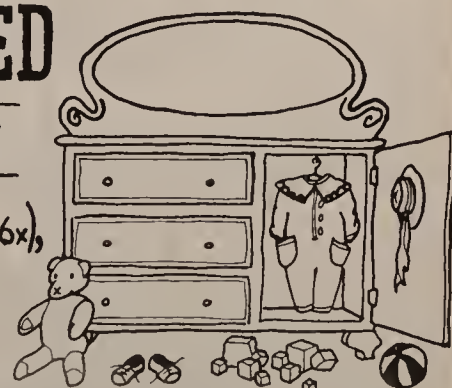
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Mom's Hiding in Her Office. The Harris boys—Jonas (top), Robin (left), and Lucas—are home from school and ready for cookies!

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Kids' Picks

By Michele Lynn

The Hottest Spot for Tumbling Tots: The Kids Gym program at Upper Noe Recreation Center is the place to be on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon. That's when busy toddlers, ages 1 to 3, can be found scampering in, out, over, and under playhouses, teeter-totters, climbing structures, trampolines, and slides of every shape and size.

Kids Gym's two rooms pulsate with the squeals of anywhere from 20 to 100 little acrobats, each with a parent or babysitter in tow. After an hour of play, everyone gathers around the piano for a 10-minute singing session led by recreation director Chris Borg and featuring such classics as *Itsy Bitsy Spider* and *The Wheels on the Bus*.

Kate Barrengos and her 2-year-old son Noah started hanging out at Kids Gym as soon as Noah was crawling. "There are tons of toys he can play with and lots of other kids he can see," says the Noe Street mom.

Castro Street resident Sandra Halladey has been a Kids Gym regular for years, first with daughter Emma, 3, and now with son William, 1. "Emma and I came every single Saturday and nearly every Tuesday for one and a half years. Now that William is old enough to enjoy it, we're back." When song time arrives, Emma can be seen doing her imitation of a teapot during—you guessed it—*I'm a Little Teapot*.

Borg notes that the program is a great place for toddlers to learn how to socialize and to share. "The singing helps develop their language skills, and the equipment helps their large muscular development," she says. "It's neat for them to come to an indoor playground. Safety is the key, and we always try to keep it clean."

Tuesdays generally draw 80 to 90, with about half as many kids attending on Saturdays. The cost is \$15 for an 11-visit coupon or \$2 to drop in, and the program runs year-round. Upper Noe Rec Center is located on Sanchez between Day and 30th streets. Enter next to the children's playground on the Day Street side.

For more information on Kids Gym, or to find out how to rent it for a Saturday afternoon party, call Chris Borg at the Rec Center, 695-5011. □

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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

I Married Again

Yes, it is true. It was on a sunny Sunday in a lovely Berkeley garden on July 6 of this year that I married a young lady named Elly Kevorkian (no relation to the doctor) to a musician by the name of Greg Eklund.

As a certified minister of the Universal Life Church, I'm allowed to conduct religious rites such as weddings. I must admit that performing in this capacity has never been for me a sought-after occupation. Occasionally, however, I'm moved to respond to a cry for help.

This one came in the form of a phone call late in June, as I was quietly attending to my household duties. It was from Ann Karlstrom, director of publications at the de Young Museum and a regular reader of the *Noe Valley Voice*. She remembered my column in the July 1996 issue titled "The Year I Married Richard." She was calling to ask whether I still performed wedding ceremonies.

No, not really, I said. But after she related the predicament that a pair of young lovers had found themselves in, I was inclined to be more sympathetic.

The story concerned the offspring of Karen Kevorkian, Ann's coworker at the museum. Karen's daughter Elly had recently rushed to her mother's home in tears after spending a session with the minister chosen to preside over her upcoming wedding. The minister evidently would not agree to Elly and her fiancé's desire to rewrite parts of the ceremony. What's more, he was asking a sum of \$700 to perform the service.

Also, time was running out for the starry-eyed young couple. The groom was a drummer with a popular rock band called Ever Clear, which often went on tour. The band played all over the West Coast, and was getting ready to move its base of operations to Los Angeles during the summer. Not wishing to be separated for long, the couple needed to get married quickly between band tours, so that their families and friends could be with them to celebrate the occasion. After tying the knot, the newlyweds would settle in L.A.

After her mother Karen explained the situation to me, I agreed to conduct a wedding ceremony that would be more to the couple's liking. As for the fee, I told Karen that I would prefer not to accept payment for my services. That was against my religion!

I still had a copy of the last ceremony I'd presided over, which I mailed to Elly. She read it, made her changes—including adding a small section in accordance with Armenian nuptials—and said she would type the revised version large enough for me to be able to read it easily.

Less than a week later, without having rehearsed or met with any of the participants—and without having in my hands the words I was going to say—I set out with my man Leo to find the big white house in Berkeley.

We arrived two hours earlier than the designated time of the wedding, but immediately knew we had come to the right place. The front yard was adorned with ribbons, flowers, and wedding bells—a dead giveaway.

There was not a soul in sight, however. After waiting for what seemed like



Columnist Florence Holub reveals why becoming a mail-order minister on a lark more than 20 years ago turned out to be a real dovey idea.

Photo by Ann Karlstrom

a long time, I went up the stairs and rang the bell. No one responded, so I rang again. I was just about to leave when the door opened and the wet head of Elly's mother appeared, saying, "You got me out of the shower!"

We laughed and introduced ourselves, and I asked if she had the words I was looking for. She shook her head, but said her daughter had them and was expected soon. She kindly invited us in, but we thought it best to wait in our car out front, so that we wouldn't miss anything. We didn't.

As Leo and I sat there, we watched a young man come along to mow the lawn, then depart. Soon another man emerged and found a few unclipped spots that he attended to. Next arrived a lady wearing a flouncy dress and carrying a basket full of rose petals, which she sprinkled over the lawn.

When a large white van pulled into the driveway, a crew of men and women got out and started carrying crates and boxes into the rear garden. The caterers had arrived!

Guests of all ages, bearing gift-wrapped packages, began to appear soon thereafter, so we knew the time was near. But where was the bride?

Suddenly a car shot into the driveway, and a casually dressed young woman jumped out, burdened with armfuls of baggage. It was Elly, of course. She rushed up, thrust three pages into my hands, and explained that she was late because her sister had gone out to buy nylons and hadn't returned for two hours! Then she hurried on into the house to dress, and I sat in our car familiarizing myself with the script.

It was good to see that the names of the couple had been shortened to first names only, which meant I wouldn't have to stumble over the last names. Since I am prone to dropping things, I folded and taped down the three pages, reducing them to two facing pages which I could hold up in front of me to read. The Armenian addition was not clear to me, but since the bridal party was frantically dressing upstairs, there was no chance for us to discuss it.

Leo and I went into the rear garden, which had been lovingly decorated with blooming plants, hanging lanterns, and more wedding bells. Little paper butterflies dangled in the shrubbery leaves, and plump white cotton doves perched on the branches. This delightful, whimsical decor was fashioned by the bride,

her mother, and her two sisters.

There were 70 guests congregated when the bridal party made their entrance. We presumed the young man with blond hair and a flashing smile was the groom because he had the largest boutonniere. He wore one gold earring, a deep blue pinstripe suit, and a large pair of bright blue suede shoes.

The bride made a lovely picture in her cream-colored chiffon gown, which was sleeveless with a slightly flared skirt. Scattered here and there on the dress were clusters of red roses that had been handpainted by its designer, a close friend of the bride. Instead of a veil, Elly wore large pink and white roses in her dark upswept hair.

As the wedding party stood quietly in place in front of the expectant audience, I began to read from my script, looking from time to time into the bride and groom's serious young faces, which seemed so filled with the importance of the moment. The words flowed easily until I came to the Armenian section. Uncertainly I said the word "wine," then "Dave," directing my gaze to the startled best man, who sputtered, "Wine...? No one told me!"

Laughter swept through the garden, and several of the ladies in the family ran off in different directions. One of them returned with a flimsy plastic champagne glass, but it was not up to the occasion. Then the mother of the bride appeared, holding the intended pewter goblet.

The couple held the stem as red wine was poured into the glass. Then each of them took a sip as I read the words explaining that this rite symbolized the sharing of all things thereafter.

Finally, with the power vested in me, and with more authority than I felt was warranted, I pronounced them husband and wife.

We were then swept up into a whirl of congratulations, libations, and conversations, as well as introductions to a host of Greg's relatives. Everyone gravitated toward the food-laden tables, and a mariachi band played *Guantanamera*.

Cameras clicked continuously, ensuring that there would be lots of wedding pictures, some of which included the Rev. Florence Holub herself.

(My favorite was taken by Ann Karlstrom. It shows me wearing my burgundy popover and my Viking cross. There is a white dove in a nearby tree that seems to be sitting on my left shoulder. I am holding in my right hand a bottle of beer, brewed appropriately in the Pacific Northwest, which is where the couple met while attending college at the University of Oregon in Eugene.)

When Elly's mother Karen and I met face to face, we fell into each other's arms laughing heartily and agreeing that this was indeed a memorable wedding. And when the happy newlyweds expressed to the reverend their sincere appreciation for her contribution, she found it most heartwarming! □

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Adult Fiction

- ◆ A love story set at the end of the Civil War, *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier follows a soldier's long journey home.
- ◆ In Elizabeth George's latest mystery, *Deception on His Mind*, an Asian man is found murdered, and a small town ignites in racial tension.
- ◆ *Inventing Memory*, by *Fear of Flying* author Erica Jong, is a saga about four generations of Russian Jewish women in New York.
- ◆ In *Margin of Error*, by mystery writer Edna Buchanan, a *Miami News* reporter suffering from post-traumatic stress relives a murder.

Adult Nonfiction

- ◆ A first of its kind, *The Book of Eulogies*, edited by Phyllis Theroux, is a collection of tributes, poetry, essays, and letters commemorating a death or assessing a life.
- ◆ Covering both ancient and modern times, *Hermits* by Peter Frances explores the lives and thoughts of diverse solitude seekers, including Thoreau, Merton, and the modern poet Robert Lax.
- ◆ *Miracle Cures* by Jean Carper compares the effectiveness and safety of herbs, vitamins, and other natural remedies to commonly prescribed drugs.
- ◆ With chapters on colors, the imagination, open-air painting, and parts of the body, *Paint* by Jeffery Camp is a manual of pictorial thought and practical advice for painters.
- ◆ **Movies, Stories, and Lapsits**
- ◆ The library will show *films* for children ages 3 to 5 on Tuesday, Sept. 23. The program runs twice, at 10 and 11 a.m.
- ◆ *Preschool story time* for kids 3 to 5 is 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, and 30.
- ◆ Babies and toddlers are invited for songs and stories at the Wednesday-evening *lapsits*, Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, at 7 p.m.

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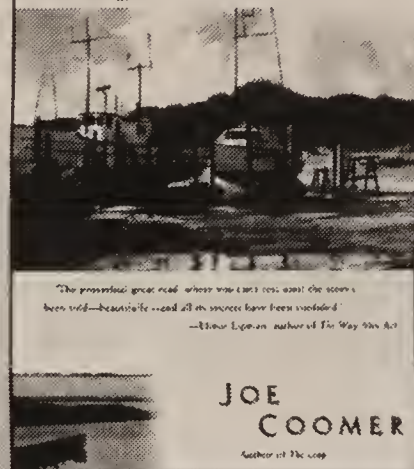


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Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action
Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center,
100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings
semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,
Keith Eickman, 282-8988,
Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street
Improvement Club**
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association
Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3428
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July,
August, and December), Eureka Valley
Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Cecile Lozano, 695-9502
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco
Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566,
San Francisco, CA 94146-0566
Meetings: Third Thursday of month, Upper
Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Barbara Russell, v.p., 285-4782;
John Barbey, pres., 695-0990;
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: At least quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, Noe
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals
Association**
Contact: Robert Roddick, pres., 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe
Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574,
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Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
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Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month,
St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Strange Birds

By Mazook

A FLOCK OF PARROTS flourishing in the trees at the top of Vicksburg near 22nd Street is the source of some very noisy chatter around the neighborhood these days.

The green and yellow birds are canary-wing parrots, says Dr. Luis Baptista, director of the Mammology and Ornithology Department at the California Academy of Sciences. They normally live in much warmer climates.

"There have been flocks of these South American parrots in San Francisco for a number of years, ever since a small flock escaped captivity in the Bay Area," marvels Baptista. "I was a little worried they might not survive the very cold winters we had here in the years around 1990, but they adapted quite well.

"They like to breed in the palm trees on Dolores Street," he adds. "When nesting, the male and the female will sing in duets."

Baptista says that for several years there have been reports of canary-wing flocks near 14th and Dolores, as well as conure parrots on Russian Hill. But this is the first he's heard of the birds in this neck of the woods.

Carl Friedman, chief of the city's Animal Care and Control, says he received inquiries about the noise made by the canary-wings a couple of years ago, when they were in the trees near Dolores Park.

Friedman, who has lived in Noe Valley



Longtime Noe Valley residents Jim and Margaret Daley were recently reunited with daughter Julie Davis, after giving her up for adoption some 20 years ago. Photo by Beverly Tharp

for 30 years, says he has gotten many reports over the past 10 years about flocks of noisy parrots visiting the city. "Recently I saw parrots flying over my house that seemed to be coming from Glen Canyon and going downtown. We're also getting reports from downtown all the time—the noise can be remarkable."

Friedman's says it's best to leave the parrots alone, even if they're making a racket. And don't feed them. They might get to like Noe Valley a bit too much, like those sea lions down at Pier 39.

My suggestion is to teach them to speak English, so they can tell us "what's goin' on" in their minds. Before I go, remind me to tell you what Baptista says the frogs of the world are telling us right now.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE TALK of Uptown Noe Valley is

the pending transformation of Stellings Market, on the southwest corner of Church and 29th. The grocery/liquor store is supposed to become a Thai restaurant. The new proprietors have already applied for a beer and wine permit.

Meanwhile, Stellings will move its video, snacks, and beverage business to Drewes Meat Market, the butcher shop a few doors up the block. The merchandise will go along the north wall, the one on your right as you walk into Drewes.

Re the Thai restaurant: I'm sure there will be more to report next month as the buzz gets louder. My olfactory sources tell me that smell will be an issue.

☎ ☎ ☎

CHURCH STREET MERCHANTS and the Upper Noe Neighbors have weathered the storm created in July when they got wind of the Department of Parking and Traffic's plan to make the streetcar lane on Church Street "Muni-only," with all other vehicles confined to the right lane.

More than 30 people showed up at a Neighbors meeting to draft a letter of opposition. The missive was sent to the mayor, the Board of Supervisors, Muni's head honcho Emilio Cruz, and Parking and Traffic boss Bill Maher.

When I last checked with Upper Noe Neighbors president Janice Gendreau, she was pleased to report that the city had backed down from the lane closure idea.

Tom Maravilla of MikeyTom Market had more good news. He said the city had agreed to a four-way stop at the intersection of Day and Church streets, where the new wheelchair ramps are.

"This has always been a dangerous intersection, but it's been really unsafe since they painted the crosswalk," says Tom. If we're lucky, stop signs should go in on Church Street by November.

☎ ☎ ☎

DEVELOPMENTALLY SPEAKING, it looks like both sides are claiming victory in regard to the compromise reached on the hillside project bounded by 25th, Clipper, Homestead, and Hoffman.

The neighbors and Friends of Noe Valley are happy because they persuaded the city's Board of Supes to downsize four of the six buildings. The builder is happy because he finally gets to build.

No sooner had the ink dried on that project, however, than the owners of the adjoining property gave notice to the neighbors that they were going to build a "three-story-plus" duplex after demolishing the existing structure.

Neighbors again went to Friends of Noe Valley and hired Noe Valley attorney Claire Pilcher. Pilcher reportedly worked out an amicable settlement with the builder, Ed Dunn, who reduced the height by one story. It's a Dunn deal.

Up on Battle Mountain (the four-house project at Sanchez and 21st streets), it looks like neighbors and developer Seamus McGee are again doing battle before the Board of Supervisors. I got this news the day I was turning in this column, so stay tuned for further developments.

☎ ☎ ☎

SUMMER FAMILY REUNIONS are great, but for Noe Valleons Margaret and Jim Daley this summer was super-special. They welcomed daughter Julie Davis into their home for the very first time.

"At the time of Julie's birth, 20-plus years ago," explains Margaret, "Jim and I were high school students back in Ohio, and definitely not prepared for the responsibilities of parenthood. Luckily, we defied the odds and have been together since high school," says Margaret. "Most biological parents of children born in high school don't remain together."

Continued on Next Page

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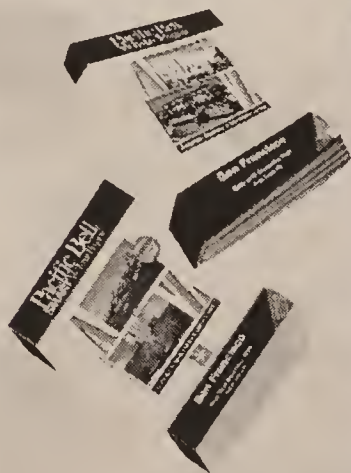
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Continued from Previous Page

Julie was adopted and raised by a "wonderful family in Ohio," where Julie still resides, these days with her husband and new baby.

Jim, a private investigator, tracked Julie down last year. "I became a mother and a grandmother almost at the same time," Margaret says wistfully.

Many of you parents might know Margaret from the old Kidstuff on Castro, where she worked 16 years ago. She also worked at Small Frys from 1990 to 1994. Then she turned artist/muralist fulltime.



CONGRATS ALSO to Noe Valley resident Laura Culberson, who has joined the architectural firm of Cary & Co. as a building conservator. Laura's expertise is in historic building restoration. She's currently working on restoration of the old Pacific Building at Fourth and Market, and the ground-floor ceiling in the old I. Magnin building on Union Square.

Happy birthday to Just for Fun. Ten years ago this gift emporium opened in the 900 square feet that used to be the Noe Valley Post Office, on 24th near Castro. Now located down the street at 3982 24th between Noe and Sanchez, Just for Fun occupies four times its original space.

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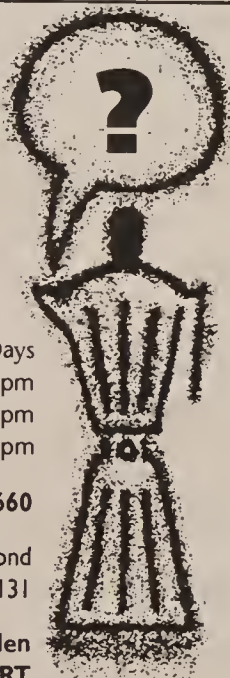
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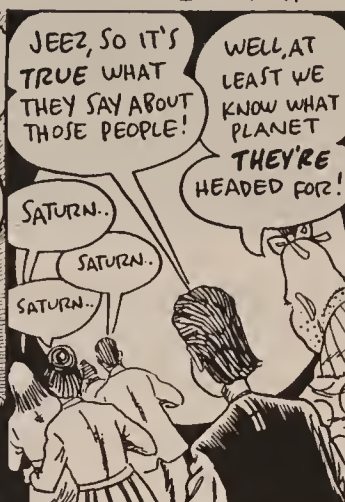
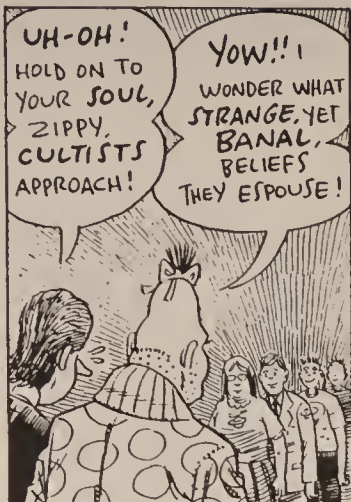
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Bill Griffith



All you Muni patrons will be glad to know that Fast Passes are now available in the Thrifty Jr. on 24th Street. You may or may not know that Thrifty has been sold and now belongs to Rite-Aid.

Sorry to hear that Ruth Villatore of Homestead Street died recently at the age of 93. Ruth was the oldest member of the East & West of Castro Improvement Club. She joined the group in 1949 and served as its treasurer for many years.

Also sorry to learn that Lady Sybil will be closing her "closet" — her lace and linen shop — on Sept. 30, after more than a decade at the corner of Church and 27th. "Our rent has increased 150 percent. So we're leaving after 14 years in Noe Valley," she says. She adds that all stock at Lady Sybil's Closet will be 40 percent off till the end of September.



TOP OF THE POPS at Streetlight Records is *Cafe du Nord*, a CD compilation of artists who have played at that popular club just over the hill on Market Street. There are some great cuts by Mingus Amongus, Lavay Smith, and Jill Tracy.

Down at Aquarius Records, the number-one seller is a tie between the quiet rock group ineloquently called Fuck, and their CD titled *Pardon My French*, and the eclectic electronic group Lesser, and their CD, *Gigolo Cop*.

Eric the night man at Video Wave reports that the most requested movie is *Sling Blade* starring Billy Bob Thornton. "It's a slasher flick with a smilin' face," says Eric.

At West Coast Video, everyone wants the documentary about Mohammed Ali: *When We Were Kings*.

Herb Lilly at Noe Valley Sports Cards says that the football card most in demand these days is the rookie-year issue of Jerry Rice, the great (now injured) wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers.

For those of you who still read books, Cover to Cover says the fictional best seller for the summer has been *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. This is the story of a Confederate soldier returning home after the Civil War.

On the nonfiction side, everyone seems to be reading about a very cold mountain, Everest, and the ill-fated 1996 climb. The

author is Jon Krakauer, who was on the expedition, and the book is *Into Thin Air*.



SPEAKING OF THIN AIR: I'll now reveal what Professor Baptista said the frogs are trying to tell us humans. "The frogs of the world are dying at alarming rates these days," he warned, "because the loss of our ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere is allowing ultraviolet rays to reach the frogs' eggs and young."

We are depleting our ozone because of chlorofluorocarbons released into thin air from our factories and gas escaping from improperly disposed-of refrigerators.

That's 30. Here's wishing you a better tomorrow, and hopefully the frogs will be saved by the next issue of the Voice. □

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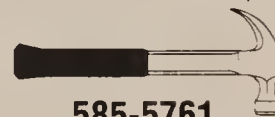
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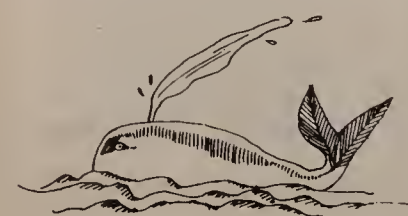
Why Clean? Allow Me to Do It! Save time and money with a detail-oriented professional. Cleaning extraordinaire at your service. Mike, 928-3199.

Bed and Breakfast, quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. Additional rooms available. Call (415) 206-0202.

Non-Toxic Housecleaning. It's healthy, effective, and affordable. I'm thorough, reliable, and honest. Local references. Russell, 431-4975.

Word Processing (expertise: legal). Tape transcription, editing, mailings, repetitive letters, resumes, letter composition, complaint letters. Phone-in dictation system. Dena Reiner, (415) 821-4661.

Put Your Neighborhood on the Wall! Commissioned watercolors from \$150, plus tax. Specializing in houses, gardens, and views of San Francisco. Free consultation with no obligation. You'll see samples of my work, and we'll discuss your idea for a painting. Call Susan Sternau at 285-0696.



Charlie the Phone Guy: Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

Don't Get Framed! Discover shrink-wrap—the affordable alternative to framing for all of your artwork — posters, photos, kids' art, fabrics. Innovative, quake-friendly, protective, and attractive. Call for details. Art Mirage, 826-3698.

Classical Homeopathic Care for acute and chronic conditions and general health maintenance. Call Joni Owen, D.C.: (415) 979-5544.

Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast. Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. (415) 648-2515.

Motherhood—Is It for Me? Ambivalence can be immobilizing. Support groups and workshops for women exploring the many feelings associated with this choice. Call for current schedule. Facilitators: Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C., and Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. 725-9165.

One-Eyed Jacks. We buy out or conduct on-premises estate sales. Will also buy single items, i.e., period furniture from 1960s back (some newer) and collectibles, oriental rugs, art, jewelry, lamps, tools, garden statuary and pottery, bric-a-brac, and more. Call or visit us at 1645 Market St. 621-4390 and 585-1901, Jim.

Word Processing: Manuscripts, theses, dissertations, tape transcription, business correspondence, reports, resumes, editing. Joanne, 431-0603.

Dog Walking Service of San Francisco. 731-0120.

Gardening Service: Includes consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance. 626-1258.

Tax Preparation for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled Agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. \$10 discount with this ad. 695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

Math Tutoring: (415) 285-1831.

Now Hiring Dog Walkers. Call Dog Walking Service of San Francisco, 731-0120.

Flute Lessons. Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. Carla, (415) 648-3651.

Relationship Counseling. Reduce conflicts and improve communication and intimacy with relationship counseling, individuals, couples, and families. Dennis Thatcher, M.S., M.F.C.C. license #MFC25186. (415) 995-2916.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, koi pond; \$250/two-night weekend, \$275/three-night weekend, \$75/night mid-week with two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month. Ten percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

Six-Week Hatha Yoga Class. This class will introduce you to basic yoga postures, breathing practices, and deep relaxation techniques. It will allow for personal attention and in-depth instruction. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

CEF Contractors. License #706109. Residential remodel and termite repairs. Carpentry, tile, drywall and plaster, plumbing, electrical, paint. Excellent references including Noe Valley locality. Call Curt, (510) 654-4963.

Do You Need Housecleaning? I'll do it! Call Marco at (415) 285-4067. References available, \$10 per hour.

Lynda the Gardener. Complete landscape service. Experienced and skilled professional craftspeople. Redwood fences, decks, and arbors. Brick, stone, concrete: walls, walks, and patios. Irrigation, lawns, planting, expert pruning, and maintenance. Let us install your dream garden. Serving Noe Valley since 1986. Free estimate. Referrals. License #543983. Lynda, 759-1335.

Stressless Housecleaning. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Errand services. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

Imago Relationship Therapy: Individual and couple therapy designed to enhance the tools necessary to have a good relationship and to heal from previous painful experiences. Consultations and brief therapy (12 weeks) available. Ten years-plus experience. Certified Imago therapist, MFC32386. Sliding scale available. Parking available. Call for an appointment. Lynn Dolce, M.F.C.C., (415) 266-9258.

Sunny Mexico! Five-star beautiful Terrasol Condos Beach Resort, Cabo San Lucas. Step from deck to the sand! Two bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, Jacuzzi, pools, Lovers Beach, great fishing, diving. 282-7955.

Stereo Repair: Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening/weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

Free Introductory Meditation Class, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Two-hour psychic readings by appointment, \$35. Psychic Horizons at 972 Valencia St. (near 21st). (415) 346-7906.

Looking for a 12-Year-Experienced, reliable housecleaner? Stop your search! Call KJ now at (415) 285-3014.

Piano for Children. Classical piano and music theory instruction offered. Patient, experienced Noe Valley teacher. Elva Granat, 285-5769.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Experience the Victorian charm of old San Francisco in designer's beautiful, spacious, three-room suite with private entrance. Delicious fare, reasonable rates, two blocks to 24th Street. "A Victorian Legacy." Call Patricia, 648-8879.

Counseling/Psychotherapy. Individual, couple, family, adolescent, pets. Mission District office. Will negotiate fee. Lower for cash. Confidential. Sally Levy, M.F.C.C. CA #MFC29828. (415) 648-8974.

Spiritual Growth, Humanistic Values: Classes and worship, Trinity Episcopal, Bush and Gough; Robert Cromey, priest and therapist, 1688 Bush St., Sundays, 9:45 a.m. adult class, 11 a.m. liturgy, (415) 775-1117.

Computer Forms. Invoices, "Quicken" checks, 500 free envelopes on first order. Lyle, 431-2700.

Costume Jewelry Repair. Repair, restore, revitalize. (415) 584-5547. Xenia (Zen Ya).

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents or friends coming and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings, private patio. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church. Oliver House, 695-0700.

Successful Resume! Get results with a professional profile. Select from resume editing, critiquing, or complete planning and writing. Call 749-3171, wir@earthlink.net. Write It Right! Resumes.

Secretarial Services: Word processing, typing, merge documents, resumes, applications, term papers, mailings, etc. Fax, laser printer. Helene, (415) 334-9853.

Noe Valley House Short-Term Rental. Beautifully furnished and decorated, fully restored, sunny one-bedroom house in upper Noe Valley, available by the week (\$500/week) or month (\$1,800/month). Fully equipped kitchen/breakfast room features French doors and deck to terraced English cottage garden in bloom year-round. No smoking, no pets. (707) 433-6355.

Midlife Women's Groups are happening in Noe Valley! Meet with women your age (40s-60s) in ongoing groups, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of these years. We are trailblazers and elders in training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, L.C.S.W., B.C.D. 641-4553.

Housecleaner. Home and office. Experienced. Great references. Own car. Dolores, 665-4353.

Bed and Breakfast: Noe and Eureka Valleys. Garden studio. View. 826-1158.

Ready Your Garden for Winter: Professional arborist. Trees, shrubs, hedges. Trees, shrubs, hedges. Twenty years experience. Neighborhood resident. Free estimates, reasonable rates. (415) 826-6160; (415) 566-1920.

How to Place a Class Ad

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by 30¢ a word, and enclose a check or money order for the full amount. Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word.

Mail the ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the 15th of the month before the month you'd like to advertise in. Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please send us the full text of your ad.

Discount for Repeat Advertisers: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the October 1997 issue, hitting the streets of Noe Valley on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The deadline for Class Ads is **Sept. 15**. The address is **Noe Valley Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114**.

Sorry, but we are unable to accept orders by phone or e-mail at this time.

However, you might like to know that the Class Ads in each month's issue of the *Voice* are also displayed on our Web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

The advantage of viewing them online is that you can search for key words, like *garden*, *house*, or *cat*. As an advertiser, you get month-long, worldwide exposure for your product or service. As a reader, you can scan the online ads even if you've recycled the newspaper.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. □

Fight the Throwaway Society! Fact: Most non-functioning donations to charitable organizations end up in landfills. Help stop this pollution by selling or donating your unwanted technological objects to Recycled Technology, where they will be repaired and returned to the public. We accept TVs, VCRs, computers, faxes, stereo equipment or anything electronic, vacuum cleaners, power tools, small or large appliances, photographic and video equipment. We invite you to buy our recycled products at significant savings. Trades considered. Call our shop at (415) 282-SHOP (7467).

Pet Care. Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? Training? A ride to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

Scottish Country Dancing. Energetic, social, challenging, and fun. No partners needed. Introductory class, \$2. Thursday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m.. Noe Valley Ministry. Bring flat shoes. Basic class starts Sept. 18. Ten-class series for \$40. Call 333-9372.

Schlepper Bros. Hauling. Fast, fair, honest, reliable, and yogie (Food Not Bombs activists). Tom, 824-4214.

Furniture Stripped and refinished. Excellent work, e.g., three-drawer dresser with mirror, \$150 with pickup. One-Eyed Jacks: 621-4390.

Peaches Painting. Add color to your life (inside/outside). Service with care at rates that are fair. Since 1980. License #618693; 25 percent off with ad. 641-9434.

Tom the Fix-it Man. Home repair and painting. Walls, floors, ceilings, windows, doors, yards, and more. Eco-safe work without the big truck or big cost. 864-7932.

Dogs Just Wanna Have Fun. Room and board \$7 to \$15/day. Lots of play and love. Many references. Bob, (415) 282-7467.

Cleaninghouse. Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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Gentle Yoga. Simple stretches and yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques to gently stretch and strengthen the body, and calm and relax the mind. Beginners welcome. No advance registration is necessary. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$7 (first visit \$4). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Building Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building? Get the expert input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981, 25 years of experience. Reasonable. Free initial consultation.

Clean & Natural: Housecleaning. Quality work. Bonded. Free estimate: (415) 642-6280.

Buy Direct Breeders. Young and tame parakeets and cockatiels. (415) 697-3682.

Sunday Services at the Integral Yoga Institute. The Integral Yoga Institute has Sunday services each week from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We begin with some chanting, then a brief discussion on the spiritual aspects of yoga, a worship service, and conclude with a short meditation. All are welcome. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Bookkeeping, Etc. Specializing in the needs of the small office. Flexible hours. Dependable. Employee or independent contractor. Judith McAvoy. (415) 885-2145.

Writing Workshop: The Personal Essay. Recount the moments of your life: the traveler's tales, the family secrets, the deaths, the loves, the connections you make that explain the world. Call for free brochure, 648-8533.

For Sale: Oak Mission-Style Futon Sofa Bed, (full) frame with foam padding and cover, \$110 or best offer. Two tatami mats (makes queen size), \$75. Two bicycles: one Bianchi 12-speed, \$100; Moto-becane 5-speed (originally 10-speed), \$25. One white laminated countertop, \$10. Call 431-8387.

Dog Care and House Sitting. September to December. References available. Henry, 789-7820.

I Love Housework! Thorough, reliable service, reasonable rates. Kate, 431-4383.

Doing Your Bookkeeping routinely are we? Do you know where your money goes and how to manage it better? Are your small business books up to an audit? Need someone to handle your payroll and benefit plan paperwork, help with bank loan papers, or your company invoicing? I have 20 years experience in individual, sole proprietor, partnership, and corporate bookkeeping. Yvonne, (415) 641-8200, by appointment, evenings and weekends too.

Mr. Morgenstern Hauls All, reasonable or free in exchange for goods. What have you? 563-5354 or 560-3637.

The Psychology and Philosophy of Yoga. This four-week class, based on Patanjali's yoga sutras, encompasses the psychology and philosophy of yoga. You will learn the yogic concept of the mind and how to use it more effectively. Required reading: *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali* (available at the Institute for \$14). Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. Mondays, beginning Sept. 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$28. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Wanted: Reasonably Priced Artwork for lower Haight art gallery: jewelry, stained glass, graphic design, sculpture, pipes and bong, and artwork made from hemp. Contact Homegrown Art, (415) 551-1546.

Housecleaning. Environmentally safe, fast, reliable, experienced. Free estimates. 661-9481.

Acupressure Massage for deep relaxation and balance. Each session combines Jin Shin and Shiatsu acupressure with Cranial Sacral and Tui-Na, in a force designed for the individual. Convenient Noe Valley office. Margaret Medeiros, C.M.T. (415) 550-8940.

Childcare: Longterm or occasional. Middle-aged graduate student. Lucy, 282-3676.

Space to Rent/Sublet in an alternative health care clinic (acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine). We are looking for alternative health care practitioners, i.e., bodyworkers, hypnotherapists, nutritionists, chiropractors, homeopaths, etc., who would like to share space in comfortable, friendly surroundings. Located between Mission and Noe Valley on Valencia Street. Call Valerie or Alicia at (415) 647-6222.

Psychotherapy Office. Prime Noe Valley location. Shared waiting room, kitchen, cleaning service, and utilities included. Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday available at \$130 a day per month. Call 285-2183.

Group Therapy for Women with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have an opening in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$30 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, (415) 661-7158.

Sublet Wanted: One-bedroom or studio. All or part of November '97 to May '98. Noe Valley, Mission, or Castro preferred. Stellar references from previous sublets. Patricia, (415) 436-0999.

Cat & Plant Care is in its 16th year of providing TLC to cats and homes in Noe Valley and environs. If you're looking for a reliable individual with local references, call Anna-Kajs (A-K) for a cat chat, etc. 648-8132.

Writer's Block? Dark night of the soul? Fear not. The Writing Coach is here! Experienced writing teacher offers a block-blitzing program to get you started, get you going, get you living the artist's way...your way. 18 years experience. M.A. creative writing. Teacher, San Francisco State. For a dynamic switch from peer-editing, "supportive feedback," and running in circles with wolves, try Individual Project Consultation and/or "Write It Anyway!", first in the Noe Valley Workshop Series for aspiring writers with competing interests and obligations, Oct. 6 through Nov. 17. Follow-up workshops in project design, craft, and critique TBA. For more information call (415) 648-2406, The Writing Coach.

Meditation Workshop. A practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Relocating? We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to setup, we handle all the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

Furniture Wanted. I need old dressers, tables, desks, etc. Will repair and/or refinish if necessary. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

Experienced Carpenter/Handyman available all phases. Over 23 years professional. Call Marcus at 647-6087.

Too Many Papers? Too Little Time? Call Margo Rila, 861-4551. Home and office organizer. Reasonable rates. References.



Word Processing Is My Life! Transcriptions, reports, resumes, merging, mailing lists, slide shows, term papers, technical and legal documents, employee handbooks, 25 years legal experience, 150 wpm typing speed! Can also compose letters for you. Notary. Pat, (415) 643-2800, at 28th and Dolores, by appointment, evenings and weekends too.

Occasional Work Sought: Semi-retired proofreader (knowledge of French and Spanish); former legal secretary (Word Perfect 5.1); capable, reliable; seeks occasional work (proofreading, clerical, reading aloud, other) to supplement part-time job and small pension. Anne, (415) 522-2980.

Handyman/Carpenter. Repair a door, hang a kitchen cabinet, remodel a closet, add a room, build a fence or a deck, or even trim a tree. I'm skilled and do good work at reasonable prices. Robert, 550-4055.

Soul Journeys. Sunday evenings, once a month. Journeys to retrieve lost essence, release blocks, empower your dreams, remember purpose. Marilyn King, Ph.D., licensed psychologist. (415) 824-7083.

New Lesbian Psychotherapy Group in Noe Valley. Monday evenings. Focusing on intimacy, interpersonal dynamics, self-esteem. Contact Linda Rose, L.C.S.W., for initial interview. (415) 643-3996.

Housecleaner. Reasonable, responsible, reliable. Experienced with references. Call Alison. 584-8736.

Carpentry, Ceramic Tile, drywall, decks, finish carpentry, hardwood floor refinishing, painting. Reasonable prices, good references, free estimates. Call Brad, 627-4065.

Bodywork for your well-being. Release stress and pain. Feel relaxed and integrated. Swedish, lymphatic massage, acupressure, reflexology, energy balancing. Women only. Fifteen years experience. Certified. Lynn. 431-2588.

Premium Water Filters. Top quality, installation, literature available. To your door service, satisfaction guaranteed. Start at \$350. Call Marcus at (415) 647-6087.

Writing Workshops: Write for personal development and creative expression in a supportive environment. Thursday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., Oct. 2 to Nov. 6. Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 4 to Nov. 15. Call (415) 821-4594 for more information.

Bhagavad Gita. This six-week class studies the ancient Indian spiritual classic, Bhagavad Gita (Song of God), with an emphasis on how to apply the spiritual principles into daily life. Required reading: *The Living Gita* (available at the Institute for \$16). Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Overwhelmed by Clutter, bills, closets? Professional organizing team to the rescue. We offer expert, simple solutions to what goes where. Desks, closets, relocations, garages, kitchens, filing systems, and more. Free phone consultation. Call ShipShape, 550-0658.

Psychotherapy Office. Comfortable, beautifully furnished office in Noe Valley. Located in a suite of psychotherapy offices with a kitchen. Convenient to shops, transportation. Available Tuesdays. Call Arlene at 821-0590.

Pranayama and Meditation. This six-week class presents the basics of meditation and breathing practices. Discover for yourself how these practices can improve the quality of your life, raise your standard of health, and bring new clarity and dynamism to your mind. Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

TV, VCR, Stand, Antenna. \$325 NEC 27-inch CT-2762S, color, stereo speakers, cable, remote, 33 x 24 x 21. Light usage, excellent condition. VCR NEC N906U, needs tracking adjustment. Used 20 hours. (415) 285-8016.

Housecleaner Available. Thorough and careful work done to your specifications. \$13 per hour. Fifteen years experience. Professional garden work also. Margaret, 824-0894.

Fine Art for Sale: Figurative sculpture clay/raku-fired by Lynn Carter. 431-2588.

Writers Wanted. Self-published books of poetry, fiction, and short story collections. Nonfiction books about art or how to publish your own art. Homegrown Art, 551-1546.

One-Day Retreat. Treat yourself to a day of quiet, revitalizing the body and bringing mental and spiritual renewal. The day will include an extended Hatha Yoga session, meditation, silence, a puja, and a vegetarian lunch. For beginning and experienced students. Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. Sunday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Handyman: Repairs, build household and yard projects. References, reasonable rates. Harry Irving, 986-2654.

Decorating/Painter: Faux marble, wood, patine, trompe l'oeil, etc. (from Paris). 387-6275, Gniccky.

Upholstery: I rebuild and recover overstuffed chairs, sofas, dining chairs, and ottomans. Also sew slipcovers and cushions. Free estimates, pickup and delivery. Jorge Meraz-Baca. (415) 282-2256.

Walkin Waggin Pet and Plant Care by Carla. Located in Noe Valley. Love and attention, walks, play or sitting. Health care, feeding, and hygiene. Services for all animals (fish and horses too). Responsible, mature, fun, and smart. Animal caretaker/owner with 25 years experience. 648-3651.

Wing Chun: Effective self-defense for all ages. Rapid learning through private lessons. (415) 821-0125.

Let Me Make Your Life Easier. Experienced and reliable personal assistant available to take charge of busy professional's personal affairs. Services range from dog walking to house-sitting to shopping. No errand or chore is too mundane or menial. For more information on availability or hourly rates call Personal Assistant Plus at (415) 561-9154.

Expand Your Capacity to resolve life's challenges. Gain authenticity and clarity. Enjoy increased ability to develop gratifying relationships with self and others. Responsive, skillful, compassionate therapy committed to your growth. Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. (510) 895-3592 (San Francisco office).



Call with Your Garden Questions: Professional arborist. Trees, shrubs, hedges. Trees, shrubs, hedges. Twenty years experience. Neighborhood resident. Free estimates, reasonable rates. 826-6160; 566-1920.

Considering Psychotherapy? A time of difficulty can become a time of growth—if you reach out and use the help and tools that are available. I'm an experienced, licensed therapist who offers a responsive, down-to-earth counseling approach for individuals and couples of all lifestyles. Both short- and long-term counseling are available at my Noe Valley office. Call Judith Rosen, Ph.D., M.F.C.C. (MFCC #18035) at 285-0262.

Easeful Techniques for Stressful Times. Using the rich variety of guidelines available in yoga, we learn to take charge of stressful situations rather than being controlled by them. These workshops explore the ways we react to stress and how we can put the yogic guidelines to work for us so we can be more easeful, peaceful, and dynamic. Two classes may be taken together or separately. Mondays, Sept. 22 and 29, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$7 each. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Summer Tahoe Getaway! Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Hiking, golf, tennis, swimming, boating, and beaches. Twenty minutes to South Shore casinos and shows. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace. Two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call 282-7955.

Tony the Tile Man. Ceramic. Service since 1979. Free estimates, 725-9165.

Hi. Happy Housecleaning. Dinora Gil, (415) 282-4837.

Fatherhood—Is It for Me? Are you considering parenting? One-day workshops for men exploring this choice. Call for current schedule. Facilitators: Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C., and Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. 985-7464.

Yoga in Noe Valley. Classes and private lessons. Also, yoga therapy for whatever ails you! New Dawn Yoga Therapy, (415) 285-1831.

Need An Extra Bedroom/Bath for visiting relatives or friends? Rent ours. No frills. Low cost. 282-2550.

Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Unique approach for holistic balance. Beginners Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. \$5 introduction. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Chris Sequeira, 24 years experience. (415) 756-6857, (415) 773-8185.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical, or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bannett, 648-1007.

Carpentry. Remodel, interior/exterior, small and large jobs. Windows, tiles, doors, bath, kitchen, landscape. Reasonable rates. Excellent references, 15 years plus. Jeffrey, 923-1927. Leave message.

Pet Patrol: Dogs and cats, 40 pounds or less. We will care for your pets while you are away. Tender loving care provided as well as long walks and short talks. Housesitting available. Low rates, excellent references. We are bonded and available seven days a week. Please call Kacey, 206-0646.

Prenatal Yoga. Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyful pregnancy. Come prepared to do stretches. Six Wednesdays beginning Sept. 17. Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Join the Refractions and learn to sing in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Eclectic repertoire, directed by Candy Forest. Tuesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m. 550-7752.

Getting Married? Let the Noe Valley Wedding Wench help you make it a great day. From the smallest to the largest, we can do it all. From traditional to outrageous, we will lovingly take care of every detail! 282-2782 or 550-7752.



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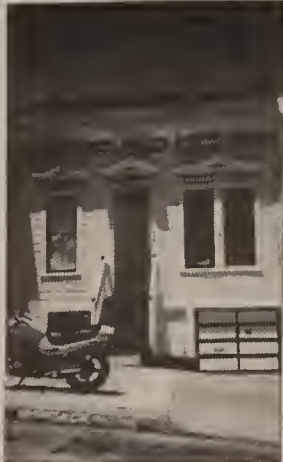
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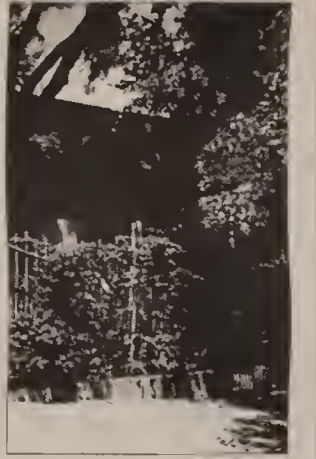
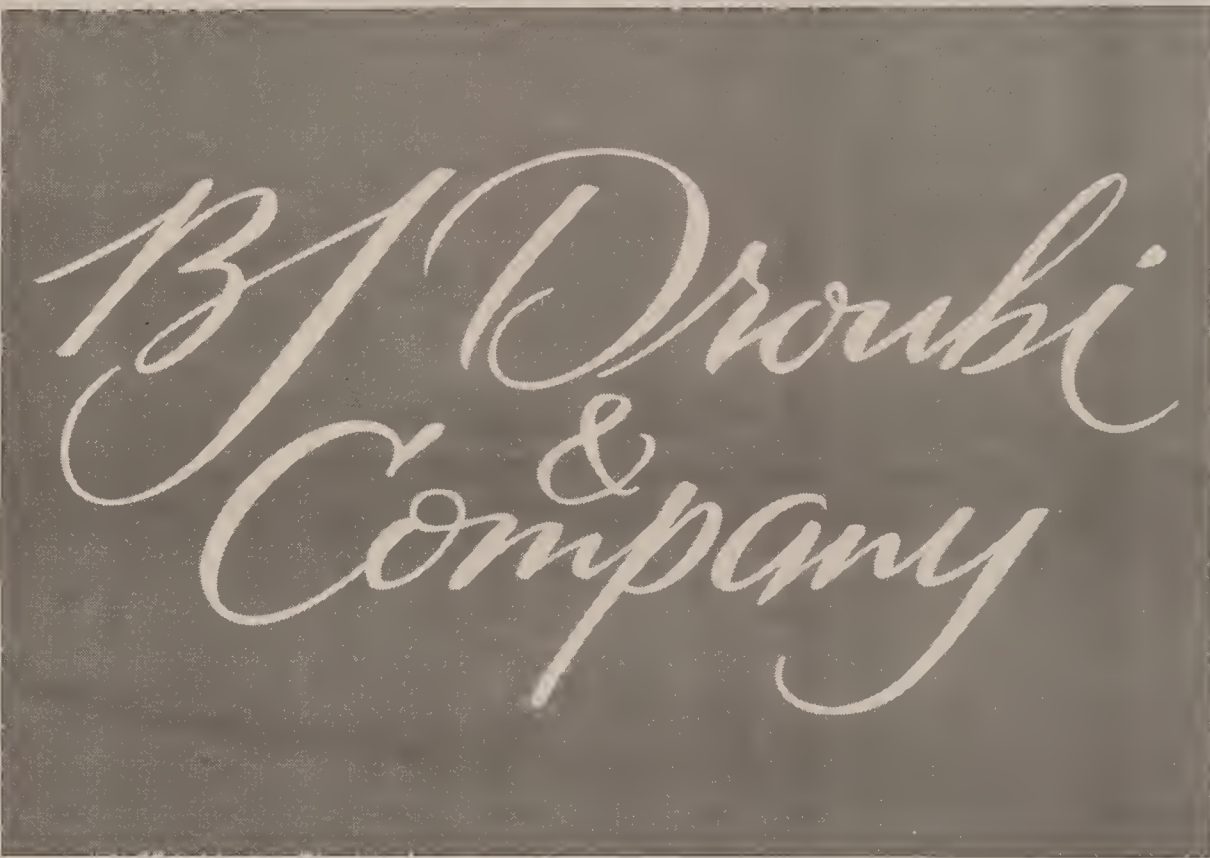
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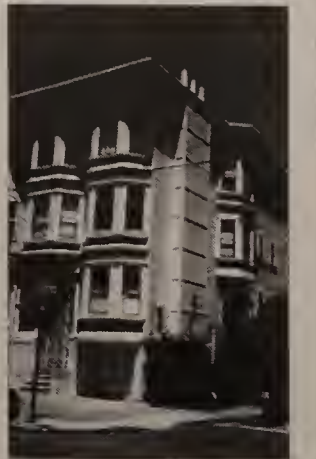
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Fiction

Caroline's Mother

by

Lisa De Niscia

Caroline heard what her mother said, that she was taking Caroline's two younger sisters to the mall cuz they needed things — new sneakers, new jeans, new whatever. Caroline didn't pay attention to her words, words that were garbled, rambled, slurred. Words that got in the way of what her mother meant.

"You're going to the mall?"

Caroline said this to her mother as if she hadn't heard, as if she didn't quite understand what it was they needed at six o'clock on a Tuesday night.

"We'll be home in two hours," Caroline's mother said as she grabbed Lily's hand, then Audrey's, and then added, "Don't forget to run the dishwasher, honey."

Sixteen-year-old Caroline stood in the hallway as the front door slammed shut.

That slam startled her as if she hadn't heard it before. It sounded heavier, as if the door had gained weight since the last time she'd heard it slam earlier that afternoon, a slam that meant more than exit.

She stood there watching the door as if it were going to suddenly swing open, perform a magic trick or a miracle, like her mother returning in the two hours she'd said she would, with both her sisters, smiling about their new sneakers or new jeans or new whatever.

"The house is mine, all mine, mine mine mine," Caroline said out loud, as if trying to convince herself, remind herself that having the house to herself was a wonderful comforting thing, something she should enjoy. Then she said, taken aback, "I'm becoming like her." Caroline hated her mother's habit of talking out loud. Especially since she didn't talk to anyone in particular about anything in particular when she talked. She just talked.

Although once she had talked very particularly, talked her way to the President. He was in town, and Caroline's mother just had to see him, had to tell him what was really up. Caroline told her "as if you know." But Caroline's mother insisted she had plenty to discuss with Mr. President, and so she talked her way through the city cops, through the Secret Service, talked her way past the President's personal bodyguard, the President's assistant, the President's wife, until she was right there, sitting next to him in the limo.

"What did you say?" Caroline asked her mother after she'd been driven home, escorted by three police cars and the FBI.

"What's your favorite color," Caroline's mother said.

"What?"

"He doesn't have one. Is that a riot or what?"

"I don't believe you."

"Heard it with my own ear." Caroline's mother was deaf in the right ear.

"I can't believe that's what you wanted to talk to him about."

"I had something to tell him, something very important."

"You don't remember anything, and you know it."

"You were born at eleven-oh-eight in the p.m."

"That was Audrey."

"There were three of you."

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"Forget it."

"Hard to forget having three kids."

"So'd they arrest you?"

"I'm a concerned citizen."

"Concerned about what?"

"You and your smart mouth."

"They just let you go?"

"What'd you want them to do?"

Silence.

Caroline couldn't tell her mother she wanted them to take her away, lock her up and throw away the key, so she said nothing. And she couldn't say anything when the telephone rang while she gazed at the front door waiting for it to do something. She didn't wanna answer the telephone, didn't feel like saying anything, least of all "he's not here."

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CAROLINE'S BEST FRIEND was Amy, though Amy would never say Caroline was her best friend, and actually Caroline wouldn't call Amy her best friend but would say she was the person she bummed cigarettes off of the most, but the thing

hands. "This is the twenty-fifth time you've been late this year, and it's only November."

"What type do I look like?"

"You really want to know?"

"Just tell me."

"A ballerina."

"I hate to dance."

"Mrs. Williams says you're a talented gymnast."

"I don't care." Caroline did care and had an inkling that her metal and leather and cigarettes looked like manufactured toughness. She was short and skinny and had a soft voice that she hated. Nothing about her was genuinely rough or tough, except her weekly threats to kill anyone who said anything about her mother, even nice things, especially nice things.

"I don't know what else to do," the principal said as he picked up the phone and began to dial. He knew Caroline's number by heart.

"Wait, no, stop," Caroline said. "She's in bed sick." She had explained this to him yesterday. "I was up again all night taking



Illustration by Karol Barske

was, Amy was the only person in high school who talked to Caroline. Even the teachers avoided talking to Caroline unless it was absolutely necessary.

If asked why, the teachers would say, "Caroline makes the metal detectors go off at least three times a week." Sometimes it was the chains that hung from her belt loops. Usually it was knives. And no teacher or student would admit that not talking to Caroline had to do with her weekly threats to kill anyone who said anything about her mother, even if it was nice...especially if it was nice.

The metal detectors didn't go off those next few mornings, the mornings Caroline woke up alone in the house, again. As usual, she had a coke and an ice cream sandwich for breakfast before taking off for school. Caroline got to school a little late those days. She had waited up until four each day, actually night, for her mother and sisters, but finally fell asleep watching television.

"Do you have a note?" Caroline's third-period teacher said to her when she strolled in late the second day in a row.

"I can write one if you want," Caroline said.

The class laughed, but the teacher sent her to the principal's office, again.

"You're such a pretty girl," he said to her.

"So?" Caroline said, wondering what he'd think if she pulled out a cigarette.

"You really don't look the type."

"The type for what?"

"For this." He gestured to her with his

care of her. That's why I was late. She couldn't even write me a note."

The principal continued to dial. It rang and rang. He looked at Caroline and frowned.

"I turned off the ringer," she lied and watched him scrawl a note for her, which she took back to her third-period teacher.

The teacher didn't say anything as Caroline took a seat next to her best friend Amy. Caroline leaned over and asked her for a cigarette and matches. The teacher cleared her throat and pointed to the No Smoking sign above the blackboard. Caroline squinted at it, though she knew exactly what the sign said. Then she struck a match.

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SEVEN DAYS LATER the door slammed shut, an unexpected slam at 11:00 on a Tuesday night, waking Caroline, who'd fallen asleep in front of the TV, the place where she'd fallen asleep every night for the past seven days.

"Hello? Hello?" Caroline's mother shouted as if it were the middle of the afternoon. And she sounded as if it were the middle of the afternoon: perky, wide awake, and unusually coherent.

"In here," Caroline said, trying not to sound excited or angry or relieved that her family had come home, that she still had a family. But she hadn't seen or heard her sisters yet, so she sat up quickly, leaving an indentation in the worn couch cushions that she had sunk into while sleeping.

"There she is, my angel," Caroline's

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mother sing-songed as she entered the den. For a moment Caroline wondered if her mother was going to come over and kiss her, maybe hug her, but as usual she didn't.

As soon as Caroline saw Audrey and Lily, looking tired, hungry, and dazed, she slumped back into her sleeping position, into her sleeping dent, still warm.

Caroline's mother began straightening up the room, picking up dishes with crusted food on them, glasses coated with milk, empty bags of potato chips, ice cream wrappers, empty cans of soda.

"Everything okay, honey?" her mother asked.

"What do *you* think?" Caroline said. She noticed that neither her mother nor her sisters were carrying shopping bags. "What'd you buy?" she said smugly, knowing what she was going to hear.

"We couldn't find anything we liked, right, girls?" Caroline's mother said.

"They didn't have good colors," Lily said.

"Didn't have our sizes," Audrey said.

Caroline wanted to congratulate her sisters for not flubbing their lines this time, but she didn't say a word. She loved her sisters, felt sorry for them.

She watched as her mother piled a few more wrappers and cans into her arms and went into the kitchen.

Caroline jumped up from the couch calling to her, "Wait, Mom, wait!" But it didn't matter what Caroline shouted as she watched her mother shove the plates, glasses, potato chip bags, ice cream wrappers, and crumpled soda cans into the dishwasher.

Writer Lisa De Niscia enjoys the Noe Valley Voice via subscription from her home in southern California, and hangs out in the 'hood whenever she's in S.F. Her first novel, *My Valley Is Icky Too*, will be published this fall on the Internet by Firetrap Publishing. You'll be able to check it out on Firetrap's Web site: www.firetrap.com.

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